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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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75¢

Poker arcade guard killed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» Homicide, 2 robberies happen in Dandan in a month

The death of a security guard at a poker arcade in Dandan, who was found with massive injuries last March 16, has been ruled a homicide.

Guam chief medical examiner Dr. Aurelio Espinola, who did an autopsy last Friday, had determined that the victim, Jim Nimwes, 47, a Chuuk national, died due to blunt force trauma.

"This case is under investigation," said acting Department of Public

See POKER on Page 4

ROAD IMPROVEMENT
A worker operates a backhoe as road construction at Isa Drive on Capital Hill continues. The CNMI Department of Public Works has asked for the community's understanding and patience. The ongoing road improvement project would be completed in phases.
JON PEREZ

Robber sped off in blue Matrix car

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The man who robbed the 7 Star Market along Dandan Road on Friday night fled on a blue Toyota Matrix sedan, police said yesterday.

Three witnesses described the car as having damage on the right rear portion, according to acting Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong.

He said the suspect was about

See ROBBER on Page 4

Widow sues funeral home

» For allegedly being deprived of chance to view husband's body a final time before its cremation

The widow of a Chinese farmer who was allegedly murdered in As Lito last year is suing a funeral parlor for allegedly depriving her a final chance to see his body before its cremation in Guam.

Maria Lourdes Olopai Ding is suing Francisco C. Cabrera, owner of Cabrera's Funeral Service, for negligence, breach of contract, reckless infliction of emotional distress, and violation of the Consumer Protection Act.

Ding, through counsel Joseph E. Horey, wants Cabrera held liable for an undetermined amount of damages, litigation costs, and attorney's fees.

See WIDOW on Page 4

'Equal healthcare treatment for territories'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Healthcare remains a hot button issue in Congress, despite the GOP-planned repeal and replacement bill for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, failing to reach the House floor for a vote.

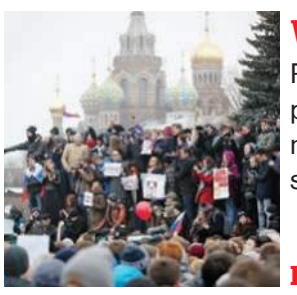
House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-1st Wisconsin) yanked the bill from the calendar, expecting they don't have the numbers. At least 31 GOP lawmakers were either against it or were leaning to vote no for its passage.

However, the story remains the same for territories like the CNMI. Being left out again in the Republican's healthcare reform bill, just like

See EQUAL on Page 4

INSIDE

ASIA
South Korean prosecutors want former President Park Geun-hye arrested.
PAGE 16



WORLD
Russia's opposition puts on an impressive nationwide show of strength.
PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE
Three residents graduate from the Local Internship Program of IPI.
PAGE 19

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IT&E

Local

Woman gets probation for beating child with wire hanger

A 35-year-old woman who beat up and injured a 4-year-old girl with a wire hanger has pleaded guilty and was handed a two-year supervised probation sentence.

Bao Fang Li Mangarero pleaded guilty to child abuse or neglect.

In an order last week, Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja sentenced Mangarero to five years imprisonment, all suspended.

She was given credit for one day of time served. She was placed on supervised probation for two years. One of the conditions bar her from any violent contact with the girl and other minors.

Mangarero was required to attend 40 hours of counseling and was ordered to pay $280 probation fee and $100 court costs.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, Mangarero repeatedly hit the minor, who was in her care, with a wire hanger, hard enough to leave bruises and welts on her buttocks on Sept. 13, 2016, on Saipan.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato served as her counsel. Chief Prosecutor Michelle Harris represented the government.

Police saw red and purple bruises on the child's buttock and on her left arm.

Due to pain from the injuries, an officer had to carry the child to the other examination room in the hospital.

It was a staff of a day care center who reported the matter to the Division of Youth Services after she noticed the girl's injuries.

During an interview with police, Mangarero admitted spanking the girl's buttocks using a plastic hanger. Mangarero said she was angry because the girl lied to her.

Mangarero is the stepmother of the child. At that time, the girl had just arrived on Saipan from China four months prior, according to police. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Army gains a new 2nd lieutenant

Nikita Hofschneider was officially sworn in last Friday as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

A commissioning ceremony was held for Hofschneider at the Saipan Mayor's Office last Friday, March 24, 2017.

According to a Wikipedia definition, a commissioning ceremony is when a cadet becomes a commissioned officer. This ceremony marks the transition from trainee to leader for a cadet.

According to Hofschneider in an email interview, the most significant part of the ceremony is when each cadet takes the commissioning oath to swear to support and defend the Constitution, to bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution, and to faithfully discharge the duties of her office.

" This ceremony was significant because it marked many milestones for myself as a woman from the CNMI," Hofschneider said.

Hofschneider is the first military officer in her family.

Hofschneider is extremely grateful to her parents because, according to her, "… they embodied and raised me with values that I have used throughout all the struggles and successes of my new profession"

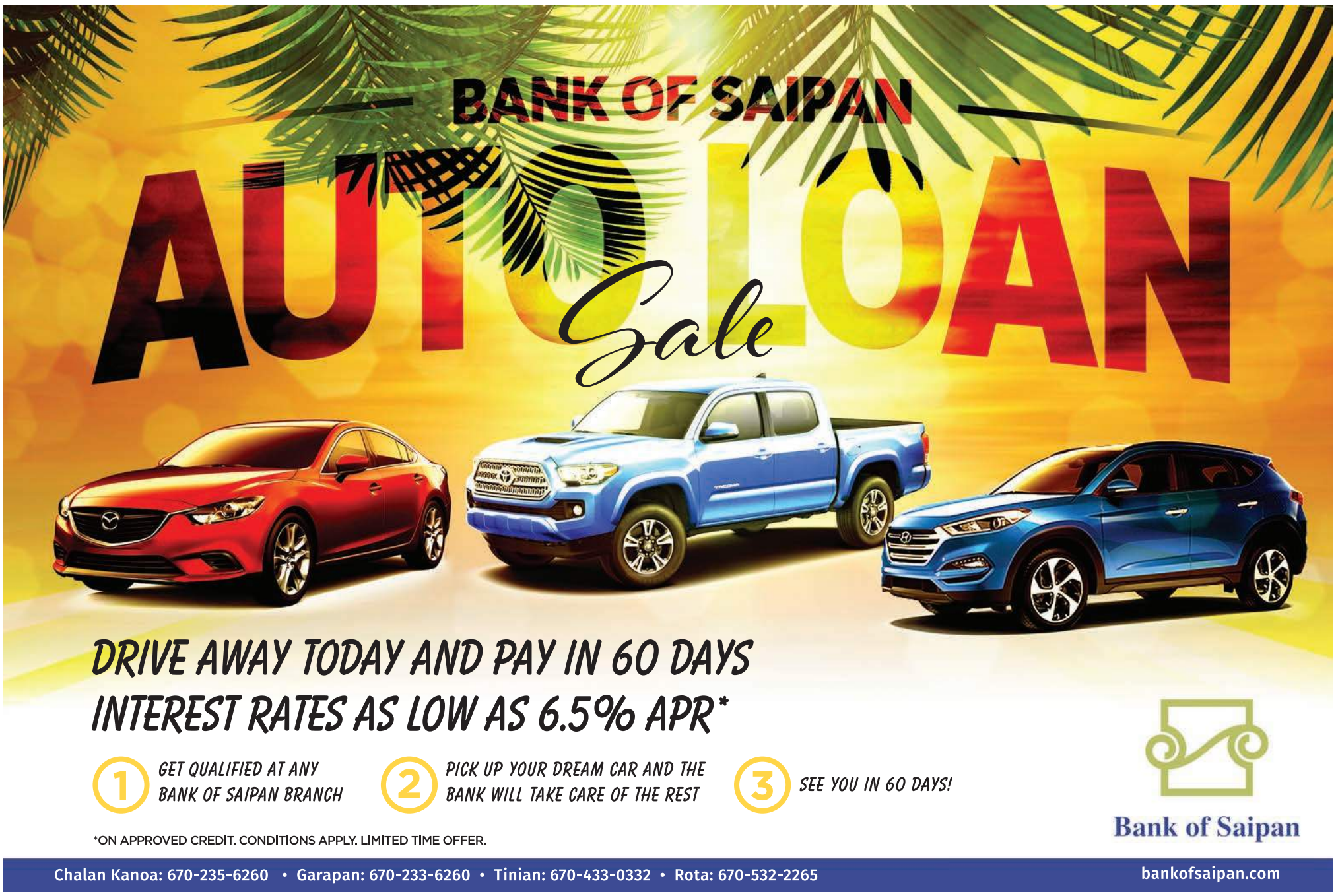
According to Hofschneider, her achievement is more than just a milestone. "It also opens up paths for all those seeking inspiration on ways to [transform] dreams into reality," she said.

Hofschneider was commissioned into the Army after majoring in Criminal Justice at the Northern Marianas College, obtaining a bachelor's degree at the University of Guam and four years of rigorous military training through the University of Guam's Army ROTC program.

Lt. Col. Jay A. Blakley, UOG's Professor of Military Science, swore in Hofschneider. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

From left, Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez, Nikita Hofschneider, Board of Education vice chair Janice Tenorio, and Lt. Col. Jay A. Blakley on Friday at the Saipan Mayor's Office.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO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By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

OIA releases $1.7 million for territories, FAS

The Office of Insular Affairs approved three technical assistance grants totaling $1.7 million to the four United States territories and Freely Associated States—the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

The money is part of the fiscal years 2016 and 2017 budget of the U.S. Department of the Interior. This is not on the Trump administration's budget request for fiscal year 2018 that slashed $1.5 billion from Interior's funding.

"These funds demonstrate, in part, our support commitments and important programs [that] continue to benefit people in the U.S. territories and FAS," said OIA acting Assistant Secretary Nikolao Pula.

"We continue to work closely with the governors of the U.S. territories and presidents of the FAS to make sure that U.S. taxpayer dollars are used correctly and in the nation's best interests."

The three TA grantees are the Prior Service Trust Fund; the Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, and Utrik Atoll Health Care Program; and the All-Island Tax Administrators Association.

The PSTFA amounted to $865,800 and it would continue to fund employee benefits under its terms. The federal government took full responsibility of PSTFA after the termination of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The governments of the three FAS—FSM, the Marshall Islands, and Palau—and the CNMI pay the benefits of former TTPI employees, aside from covering PSTFA expenses under the program.

Marshall Islands received $697,387 that would provide continuing healthcare program to the people of Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, and Utrik atolls.

The OIA, through the program, provides full time services of physicians and nurses to about 3,000 residents of the atolls who have been affected by the more than 10 years of nuclear weapons testing on the islands.

The CNMI, together with American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the three FAS will be receiving a grant of $139,500 for the All-Island Tax Administrators Association.

AITAA gives the tax agencies of the four territories and three FAS the chance to address the concerns and promote tax laws of the Interior, the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and the Internal Revenue Service. The 2017 AITAA conference would take place in June in Saint Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Pula said the OIA had given out a total of $605 million in funding, with the money part of the fiscal 2016 budget and continuing resolutions for fiscal 2017. The FAS had received about $200 million in mandatory funding while Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands got $231 million.

"The money for Guam is more for the military and federal employees working there. American Samoa receives an average of $23 million. The CNMI received from other federal agencies that also helps with the local budget," added Pula.

The CNMI received almost $50 million in funding from the OIA, part of which was used for the refuse transfer station in Lower Base ($4.3 million) and the Marpi solid waste landfill ($16.6 million).

A total of $29 million was used to close the Puerto Rico dump and develop it into a park—the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park—that was unveiled on March 17. Pula said the park is the largest infrastructure funded by OIA in the CNMI.

IT&E cable damage on Capital Hill

IT&E unexpectedly experienced for the fourth time this past week cable damage on Capital Hill, affecting landline and DSL services of surrounding areas.

GPPC contractors caused cable damage by cutting through 25 pairs of cable. IT&E has isolated the issue causing the outage to customers and resolved the issue over the weekend.

The public and all contractors are reminded that they are required to contact IT&E seven days before any digging activity so that IT&E cables can be properly marked to prevent these outages and inconvenience to our customers.

Affected customers are being asked to inform CallCenterLeads@itehq.net. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Navy training at FDM, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- March 30 from 10am to 7:30pm
- March 28 and 29 from 10-11:30am and 6-7:30pm
- March 31 from 10am to 3:30pm

The U.S. Navy will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 on March 28-30, from midnight to 10pm

The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated. ***(PR)***

Water outage in Fina Sisu, As Perdido

There will be a scheduled water service interruption today, March 28, 2017, from 8am to 5pm in the Fina Sisu and As Perdido areas. Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Water/Wastewater Engineering and Operations staff will be conducting numerous tests on the water pressure around the Finasisu and As Perdido areas to determine necessary changes to provide a more effective and efficient operation. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon thereafter. ***(CUC)***

Call for historical papers

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council, University of Guam, Northern Marianas College, and Guampedia are calling for papers for the 3rd Marianas History Conference. The conference will be held on Saipan on Sept. 1-3, 2017, at a venue to be announced later.

A full range of topics associated with the Marianas Archipelago's history will be addressed at the conference. Paper abstracts with a maximum of 150 words and the presenter's biography may be submitted online via the following link: tinyurl.com/3rdMHC.

The deadline for abstracts is April 28, 2017. Conference presenters will be allotted 20 minutes to present. For more information about the conference, contact council staff at 235-4785 or visit the council's website at: www.northernmarianashumanities.org. ***(PR)***

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NMC's Fernandez raises concerns with NMTI bill

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez believes duplication of responsibilities would take place once a Northern Marianas Technical Institute is established.

She raised this concern in last week's public hearing of the Senate Committee on Education, headed by Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (Ind-Saipan).

Quitugua, whose Senate Bill 20-21 aims to establish this technical institute, promised to reconsider all public comments before the committee acts on the bill.

Fernandez said that SB 20-21's language seems to duplicate NMC's primary functions and services.

"The bill states that NMTI may grant postsecondary degrees, but it is unclear what those degrees are," said Fernandez. "The bill is overly broad in some areas and provides no clear explanation or definition of how the functions of the Northern Marianas Trades Institute would be different from those of NMC."

She added that it would reduce NMC's limited funds for its programs and create confusion and inefficiency with another public entity that has a similar function.

"These concerns surrounding references to degrees and postsecondary education are matters provided to NMC, whose mandate is derived from the CNMI Constitution. The bill's intention to promote technical education should be more explicitly defined and differentiated throughout the bill," said Fernandez.

Furthermore, the proposed transfer of the apprenticeship program from NMC to NMTI is also unnecessary, according to Fernandez.

"One of the primary reasons that the apprenticeship program did not materialize at NMC was that it was never fully funded. The lack of funds from the Legislature should not result in what seems to be a punitive act toward NMC," said Fernandez.

She recommended to the CNMI Legislature to fund the U.S. Apprenticeship Program at NMC, which was the original plan, rather than repealing the law that created it.

CPA readies concession agreement for OAG review

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is getting ready to submit its draft concession agreement to the Office of the Attorney General for review.

The CPA board met last week to inform the other members that the concession agreement is ready to be checked for legal sufficiency.

CPA board member and airport facilities committee chair Barrie Toves told *Saipan Tribune* that the OAG must review the concession agreement before the board adopts it.

"The law requires us to send out any draft regulations to the AG for review for legal sufficiency," he said. "We are ready now to file it at the *CNMI Registrar* for publication [before the board could act on it and approve it]."

Toves declined to disclose the contents of the concession agreement.

"It is still a working document, so until such time that the AG has reviewed it and the document has been registered, then it is open for the public for review and comment," he said.

Toves told *Saipan Tribune* in an earlier interview that since the signing of Public Law 19-76— the law that grants CPA the power to award concessions—CPA has been working on using the concession agreement as a leverage to add airport renovation to future proposals.

The current concession at the Saipan airport is held by Duty Free Shoppers, DFS, whose contract with CPA already expired in November 2015.

Since then, DFS has been paying a monthly concession fee to CPA. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

WIDOW

From Page 1

Saipan Tribune tried but failed yesterday to get comments from Cabrera.

According to the complaint, Liqian Ding was murdered by unknown assailants outside their house in As Lito on July 16, 2016.

After Liqian Ding's death, his son and daughter came to Saipan from China and agreed that his ashes would be returned to his ancestral home in China.

Since there is no crematorium on Saipan, it was necessary to ship the body to Guam for cremation.

Horey said that Maria Lourdes Ding arranged with Cabrera for funeral and cremation services for the body.

The lawyer said the parties agreed that the body would be transported from the funeral home to the airport at 9am on July 22, 2016.

Horey said the parties agreed that Maria Lourdes Ding would travel to Guam at the 1:30pm flight on July 22, 2016. Horey said this detail was significant and material to Maria Lourdes Ding because it would allow her to arrive in Guam prior to the cremation, and have a last viewing of the body at the crematorium, together with her four children in Guam.

The lawyer said Maria Lourdes Ding specifically confirmed with Cabrera that there would be an opportunity for viewing the body at the crematorium in Guam prior to cremation.

Horey said that Maria Lourdes Ding arrived at the funeral home between 8am and 8:30am on July 22, intending to accompany the body at the airport at 9am as agreed.

Horey said no one was present at the funeral home when Maria Lourdes Ding arrived there, but shortly afterward, an employee of Cabrera's Funeral Service informed her that the body had already been taken to the airport.

Maria Lourdes Ding later went to the airport that day to check in for the 1:30pm flight to Guam, but airline personnel advised that there was no reservation for her.

Horey said Maria Lourdes Ding called Cabrera, who then booked a reservation for her on a 9:50pm flight that day. Maria Lourdes Ding was able to secure a seat on the 6:05pm flight that day.

Upon arrival in Guam, Maria Lourdes Ding proceeded directly to the crematorium, but it was already closed. The next morning, she received a call from the crematorium advising her that the body had already been cremated and that she should pick up the ashes at 10am.

As a consequence, Maria Lourdes Ding "suffered emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of sleep, chills, shaking, and other damages," Horey said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

ROBBER

From Page 1

5'4" to 5'6" tall, was wearing a black mask, black long-sleeved shirt, a pair of dark pants rolled up to his knees, and a pair of flip-flops.

The suspect was also armed with a black handgun and a machete, which was hidden in a green bag on his left hand.

The storeowner told *Saipan Tribune* that the suspect was injured because he fought with him.

Police investigation showed that the 49-year-old Chinese woman who owns the 7 Star Market in Dandan was closing down for the night when the armed suspect shouted at her to give him money. She told the suspect she had none.

The 25-year-old husband of the woman, who was in the back of the store, heard the commotion. He confronted the suspect.

The suspect pointed the handgun at the victims and swung the machete violently in the air with his left hand. The male storeowner threw an office chair at the suspect. The robber swung the machete, injuring the couple.

Three men, who were in a nearby residence, heard the scream of the Chinese storeowner. The three saw the suspect running out of the store and fleeing aboard the blue Toyota Matrix car. The robber managed to get an undetermined amount of cash.

A Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services ambulance brought the couple to the Commonwealth Health Center for treatment.

The storeowner suffered a cut on the left side of his cheek and the two fingers on his left arm. His wife was also injured in the arm and back.

DPS and NMI Crime Stoppers are seeking the public's help for information about the suspect.

POKER

From Page 1

Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong yesterday.

According to Tarkong, police responded last March 16 at 10:01am to a report of an injured person south of JL Poker along Dandan Road.

Witnesses told police officers and responding medics that they discovered Nimwes with injuries under a tree near JL Poker.

An ambulance from the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services brought the victim to the Commonwealth Health Center emergency room for treatment.

The following day, March 17, at 9:17pm, Dr. Florence Shenker pronounced Nimwes dead due to massive injuries, Tarkong said.

Police confirmed via video surveillance that Nimwes was last seen leaving his work at JL Poker at about 5am last March 16.

DPS and NMI Crime Stoppers are seeking the public's help for information as to who was behind the attack on Nimwes.

Saipan Tribune asked Tarkong why the information was released only yesterday when the incident happened last March 16, but there was no reply from the officer as of press time.

Two armed robberies have happened in Dandan in a month. No one has been arrested in both cases.

Last Friday night, a storeowner and his wife were injured when a masked man armed with a machete and a handgun that is believed to be a toy robbed the 7 Star Market along Dandan Road. The suspect, who is believed to be injured, ran off with an undetermined amount of cash.

Last Feb. 20 at night, a masked man pointed a handgun at a storeowner and sprayed the victim with pepper mace during a robbery at LZ Market, also located along Dandan Road. The suspect managed to escape with $800 in cash.

The guard's killing is the first homicide case in the CNMI this year.

Last year, one homicide was reported when 59-year-old Chinese farmer Liqian Ding was found lifeless outside his house in As Lito on July 16. The case remains unsolved.

EQUAL

From Page 1

what happened under Obamacare, where insular areas' more than 4 million people, who are either U.S. citizens or nationals, were excluded.

This is what CNMI's leaders like Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) have been asking top officials in Washington D.C.: To include all five insular areas in healthcare reform.

Torres said the concerns are not new to Congress, citing a recommendation made by the Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico in a 2016 report.

The task force's recommendation to strengthen the territories' healthcare system was not only intended to improve patient outcomes. It would also enhance federal oversight, reduce the incentive for migration from the territories to the states, associate financial costs to state and federal governments, and stabilize and strengthen the fiscal condition of territory governments.

Torres said he agrees with the report's recommendations as it is also related to Medicaid in the territories.

"I also respectfully ask that a repeal to any [ACA] provisions be followed by a replacement that would ensure continued provision of benefits currently budgeted by the CNMI government using the additional allotment provided under Section 1204 of the Act," said Torres.

"A repeal without replacing this critical component will destabilize the existing program's finances and limit available services to our population."

He is also hopeful congressional leaders would remember that Obamacare changed a lot of aspects in the U.S. healthcare system rather than just the private health insurance industry, "including Medicare, Medicaid, healthcare administrative rules for simplification, preventive health initiatives, quality improvement initiatives, among many other impacts which merit careful consideration."

Include insular areas

Sablan echoed the same sentiments. President Donald Trump had repeatedly stated during last year's campaign that the GOP's goal is affordable healthcare insurance for all.

Trump told his supporters in rallies before the November election that repealing and replacing Obamacare will be his administration's first order of business.

Although he said he agrees with Trump's goal, Sablan said there are certain provisions in the GOP reform and repeal bill that needs rewriting.

"The bill that House Republicans drafted would have taken away insurance from 24 million Americans—and had no help at all for the people of the Northern Marianas Islands."

He added that he and other House Democrats raised their opposition to the bill, which was pulled from the House floor on Friday and was later declared dead. "I made my case during the debate on the floor against the bill and proposed instead that we work toward health insurance for all [U.S. citizens]."

"Our letter to Speaker [Ryan] and Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi (California 12th) asked for full inclusion in the Medicaid program, which cares for those with low incomes and already serves 14,000 in the [CNMI], including 10,000 children."

Obamacare's repeal and replacement have been at the center stage the past few weeks. The bipartisan territorial caucus had asked for the insular areas' inclusion for their respective constituents and equality with U.S. citizens in the mainland.

"We also want tax credits to help middle income families buy insurance, which all Americans were offered in the repeal and replace bill, H.R. 1628. But we want those credits paid by the federal government, not an unfunded, federal mandate that insular governments have to pay, as Republicans proposed."

ERWIN ENCINARES

Northern Marianas Trade Institute chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres, left, talks with Michael Rota last week.

NMTI calls in expert for 5-yr. master plan

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute is now developing a five-year strategic master plan after an expert from Hawaii conducted a two-day workshop that taught the institute's administrators of important points to consider.

Michael Rota, retired associate vice president for academic affairs for the University of Hawaii Community Colleges, came to Saipan at the invitation of NMTI chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres to conduct a workshop that educates NMTI administrators on the development of a strategic master plan.

Besides the basic skeleton and basic pointers included in a detailed strategic master plan, Rota also took into consideration what NMTI should focus on and what issues NMTI should address.

Rota said he merely gave NMTI the skeleton of the plan, and that the master plan is solely dependent on what direction NMTI plans to pursue.

"Some of the issues NMTI needs to pay attention to is the changing economy of the NMI—the change in the law regarding the CW-1 [program] provides them an opportunity to provide more local training," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "The end of the contract worker period means you need to have local residents prepared to fill up contract workers' jobs."

NMTI administrators were educated on identifying issues, revising the vision statement, identifying the market, and understanding the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats facing NMTI as an organization.

"It's a fairly structured process around identifying priority goals, objectives, and areas where NMTI need to grow their programs to meet the needs of the CNMI as well as areas where they are going to need additional resources if the community wants them to be successful," said Rota.

Rota was satisfied with how the participants handled the workshop, saying they had "a very enthusiastic group" that was attended by nearly the whole organization.

McPhetres, who has been working with Rota for the past 30 years, said that all that is left is to develop and follow the master plan.

McPhetres is working on the master plan with about four to five members of the organization. They meet every other day of the week to "identify the direction of NMTI."

"The five-year plan includes looking at statistics from the Department of Labor to see which areas are most needed as well as take into consideration developments in the CNMI," said McPhetres. "We look at the type of developments here so that we can train people for that type of development."

The plan includes the cost to educate students in that area.

Although she has prior experience in developing a strategic master plan, McPhetres said there might be some minor tweaks and adjustments as budgets estimations are only that—estimates.

"There [could] be some modifications depending on the time and the budget because at times [NMTI] anticipates a budget but then the government gives you less, so you have to work around it," she said.

'Mentor a MYPro' event sees key businesspeople in mentor lineup

The Mentor a MYPros event tomorrow, March 29, at the Kia showroom on Beach Road already has a lineup of mentors from both the public and private sectors.

The event will take place from 5:30pm to 9pm.

The confirmed list of mentors are Rep. Vinnie Sablan, Education Commissioner Cynthia Deleon Guerrero, special assistant for Project Development Vicky Benavente, ABTC Division director David Maratita, Bertha Leon Guerrero of Imperial Pacific International, Marianas Medical Center's Polly Masga, Pacifica Insurance's Shirley Sablan, Rep. Ivan Blanco, Fran Castro of BECQ, Matt Deets of Joeten Motors, and Tyrell Pauling of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

This event will feature healthy dishes from Everest Kitchen along with new brews and beverages provided by local Saipan Brewery and Joeten Supermarket. This event is open and free for registered MYPros members/mentors, with an entry fee of $40 for new members and mentors. ***(PR)***

Guam cathedral in receivership over $1.9 million debt

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—A Guam cathedral is in financial trouble as it has collected $1.9 million in new debt over the past two and a half years, while collections have dropped dramatically.

The *Pacific Daily News* reports that officials announced Friday that the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral Basilica, in Hagatna, is now under an internal receivership in hopes of stabilizing the cathedral's finances.

The Archdiocese of Agana currently faces the possibility of paying at least $155 million in damages in 33 clergy sex abuse lawsuits filed in local and federal court. The cases have not gone to trial and the church has not filed a response in any of the suits.

Weekly collections at the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral has dropped from about $10,000 to as little as $4,000 because of ongoing controversy.

Guam raises tobacco age to 21 come 2018

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—The legal smoking age in Guam will be 21 next year.

A measure lapsed into law this week raising the legal age to use or purchase tobacco products from 18 to 21 stating Jan. 1, 2018, The *Pacific Daily News* reported. Lawmakers unanimously passed the measure March 9 and the governor took no action, meaning the measure automatically became law.

Last year, the Legislature passed a similar bill to raise the legal tobacco age to 21 but Gov. Eddie Calvo vetoed it, saying was a "willful intrusion into the personal lives and choices of our citizens."

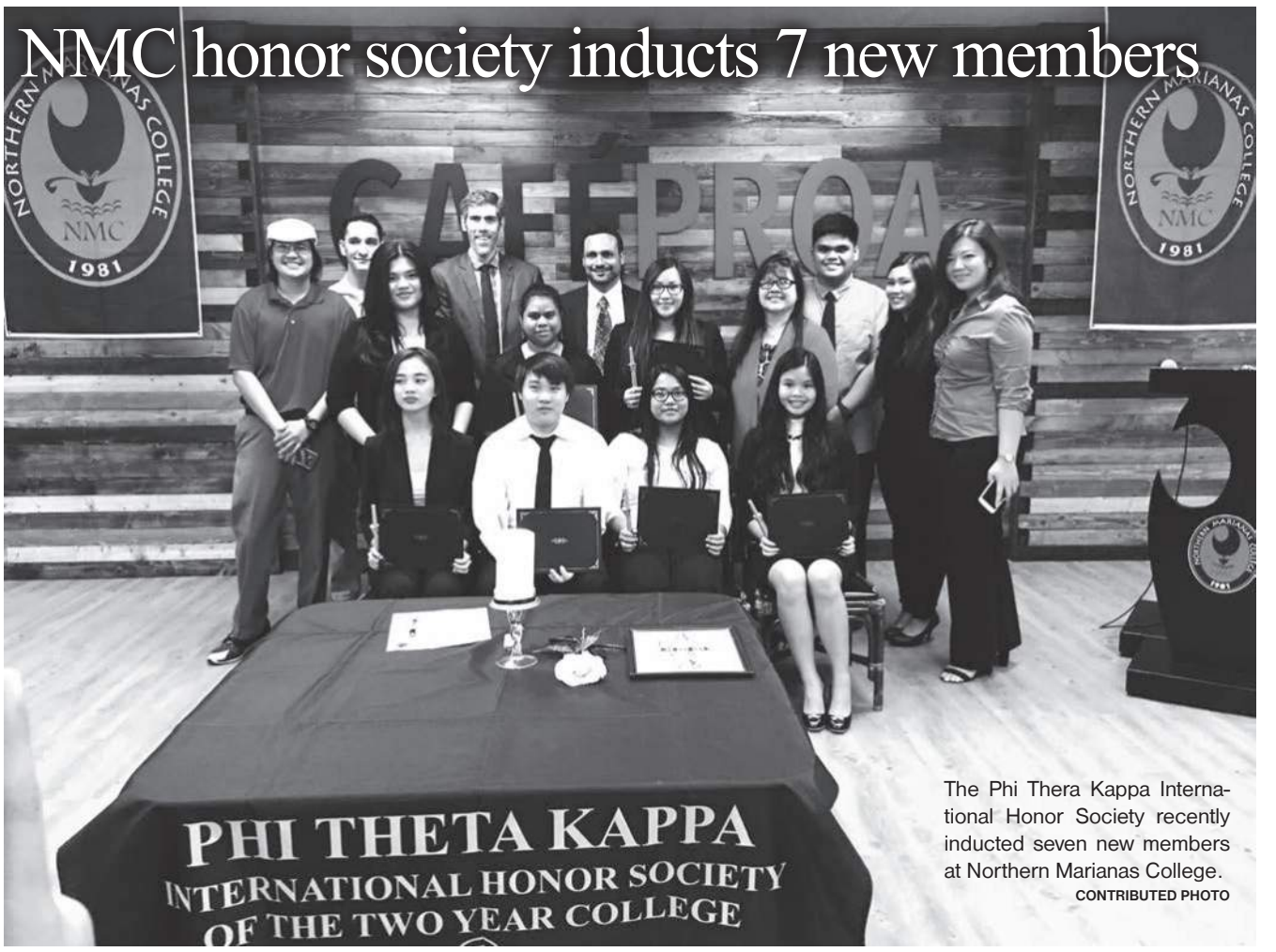
Adelup Director of Communications Oyaol Ngirairikl said Calvo maintains his stance that residents should be free to choose, but acknowledges that the majority of senators voted in favor of the smoking-age measure, making it immune to a veto.

"Guam's youth smoking rate is the highest in the nation," said Speaker Benjamin Cruz on Thursday. "And at a time when tobacco kills more people than alcohol, car accidents and illicit drugs combined, how then can we ignore the fact that doing nothing would not only have protected Big Tobacco, but condemned future generations of young people to disease and death?"

According to the American Cancer Society, smoking rates on Guam have declined in recent years to 27.4 percent, but still remain higher than the national average of 17.5 percent.

Health care officials who supported the measure to raise the smoking age cited a March 2015 Institute of Medicine report that projected tobacco use in the nation to drop by 12 percent if the legal smoking age was raised to 21.

NMC honor society inducts 7 new members



The Phi Thera Kappa International Honor Society recently inducted seven new members at Northern Marianas College.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Last Friday, March 24, seven students from the Northern Marianas College pledged to distinguish themselves through academic excellence by contributing to the community and the Commonwealth through various community service and leadership activities as members and officers of the Beta Lambda Psi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society.

The PTK honor society welcomed seven new inductees to its ranks—Jarley Blanca, Jasmine Che, Russel Charles Javan, Andrea Elouise Loste, Sabrina Pangelinan, Christopher Wu, and Chelsea Lynn Yangirelfil.

"We are all very proud of the new inductees of the PTK Honor Society, which is a very prestigious group known internationally for the caliber of its members," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "I look forward to hearing more about each of the inductees' successes and achievements in the years to come."

Gerard van Gils, who teaches social studies and career and technical education at Kagman High School, was nominated to be the group's keynote speaker for the induction ceremony.

As a teacher, Van Gils initiated the Mentor for a Meal program as well as the Million Dollar Scholars club. He graduated from the University of Utah with a B.A. in Political Science and afterward regularly volunteered services with the Utah State Legislature. This past year, he was awarded the 2017 CNMI Teacher of the Year and 2016 Marianas Young Professional of the Year.

In his keynote address, Van Gils urged inductees to take risks and face challenges head on. He also spoke of the legend of Taga, and urged parents to support their children to reach their full potential.

Established by Missouri two-year college presidents in 1918, the PTK Honor Society serves to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students and provide opportunities for individual growth and development thorough honors, leadership, and service programming.

Currently, PTK is the largest honor society in American higher education with more than 2.5 million members and 1,275 chapters located in 50 United States and territories as well as Canada and Germany. ***(NMC)***

Office of the Clerk
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
P.O. Box 500687 Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF DISBARMENT OF STEPHEN C. WOODRUFF

Pursuant to Local Disciplinary Rule 17(e), the Clerk of Court hereby publishes notice that Stephen C. Woodruff has been disbarred from the practice of law in the United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands for a period of two years. The disbarment will be effective April 8, 2017, thirty days after the entry of the Court's Order Imposing Reciprocal Discipline of Disbarment dated March 09, 2017.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

RE-ANNOUNCEMENT OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position: Accounting Clerk
Opening Date: March 20, 2017 **Closing Date: April 17, 2017**

Salary: PL 23/01 – $16,651.51 to PL 23/05 - $20,234.11 P/A
(Starting salary will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.)

Job Location: NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday , April 17, 2017, OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED no later than April 17, 2017, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity, lender and employer"

Northern Marianas College
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Website: http://www.marianas.edu

Announcement No. 17-017
Position Title: Extension Aide I
Department: Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service (CREES)
Pay Level & Step: 10/02 Annual Salary: $15,067.80
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: March 23, 2017
Closing Date: April 03, 2017 or Until Filled

Applications must be submitted by 4:40 pm on the closing date. If there are no qualified applicants or the set of qualified applicants is deemed an insufficient pool, the closing date will be extended for two-week periods for further submission and review of applications until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day. All salaries are subject to availability of funds. The College is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-DPW/FHWA-110 (A) (B)

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 13, 2017 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) LAPTOP COMPUTERS AND SOFTWARE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, HIGHWAY BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY **LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN**, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

RAMON M. BERMUDES JR. PETITIONER
VS.
NANCY D. BERMUDES RESPONDENT
) FCD – DI
) CIVIL ACTION
) NO. 17-0094
) SUMMONS FOR
) PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 502627, CK, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 3rd day of March, 2017.

/s/ Clerk of Court

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4-cyl, 2.5 Liter, Auto, 6-Spd, STK#U17-015T
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2012 Toyota RAV4
White, 4-Cyl, Auto, 4-Spd, STK#U17-021T
NOW $14,500*

2015 Prius HV, Hatchback
Gray, 4-Cyl, Auto, FWD, STK#R16-019F
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2014 KIA Sportage EX Sport
Green, 4-Doors, FWD, Auto, STK#U16-146T
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NOW $17,999*

2015 Corolla LE, 4-Door Sedan
White, 4-cyl, 1.8 liter, Auto, CTVi,
STK#U17-009R
NOW $20,599*

2010 4Runner SR5
Black, 2WD, 4-Cyl, STK#U16-091T
WAS $22,999
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2016 Corolla LE
4-Cyl, 1.8 Liter, Auto, Fully Loaded,
Red, STK#R17-001F, Low Mileage @ 2,464
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2016 Prius HV, 4-Door Sedan, SK
Green, STK#T16-04764
WAS $27,699
NOW $22,999*

2016 RAV4 LE
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STK#U17-019R, Low Mileage @ 5,367
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White, 8-pax, Power Doors, STK#R17-004F
NOW $28,999*

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2015 4Runner SR5
4WD, V6, 4 Liter, Auto, Gray, STK#U17-018L
NOW $33,199*

2016 4Runner, SR5, 4x4, 3rd Row
Auto, Red, STK#U16-136R
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NOW $34,199*

2016 Toyota 4Runner SR5
White, V6, Auto, 5-Sped, 4WD, STK#R17-002F
Low Mileage of 4,348
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Black, Smart Key, STK#T17-08082
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NOW $26,099*

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WAS $29,399
NOW $26,699*

Manager Demo 2016 AC Pre Runner
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Venice of the Orient redux

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MARK RABAGO
Maxim Hotel's Impressions is home to award-winning chef Cyrille Soene.

MCKINLEY HILL, Philippines—The CNMI and Guam media's six-day, five-night familiarization tour aboard the *SuperStar Virgo* concluded last Saturday with a visit to the Venice Grand Canal Mall.

Part of Resorts World Manila's impressive development of the old and expansive Fort Bonifacio complex, the Venice Grand Canal Mall features the country's first man-made grand canal with gondola rides.

Media from the Marianas as well as Stay and Cruise promotion partners braved the scorching heat of the midday sun to enjoy the 20-minute gondola ride.

The grand canal right in the heart of Bonifacio Global City is a throwback to a time when Manila had dozens of canals that gave the city its Venice of the Orient nickname.

Unfortunately, the Americans, fearing the waterways were breeding ground for dengue-carrying mosquitos, covered them all up.

After the brief romantic boat ride along the grand canal, members of the group then Sharpeed their significant other's name in a padlock in an act of eternal fealty before locking it in the aptly named Amore Bridge.

Lunch was at Buddy's where the group pigged out on *pancit* Lucban and Lucban *longganisa*, among others, before washing them all down with a glass—or two—of sago *gulaman* or pearl drink.

In the evening, dinner was at Impressions at Maxims Hotel. The high-end restaurant lived up to its name with award-winning chef Cyrille Soene pulling out all the stops with a menu that featured lamb cooked for 12 hours served oriental style with rissonis, tomato confit, and cucumber slaw.

During the penultimate day of the cruise on Friday, which made port calls on Currimao in Ilocos Norte, Kaohsiung in Taiwan, and Hong Kong, the group was given a very comprehensive tour of St. Luke's Medical Center and BGC.

During an interview with St. Luke's SVP and Marketing Group and Indutsry Relations head Jo C. Aguilar, she revealed that their facility is the newest member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network, which is the leading hospital in the U.S.

She said the agreement gives St. Luke's access to the latest Mayo Clinic knowledge and promotes collaboration among physicians.

Next stop was the Uptown Mall cinemas where the group was treated to a special screening of the live-action version of *Beauty and the Beast.* There, members of the group plopped themselves in reclining love seats and were spoiled with bottomless drinks and popcorn with cinema butlers at their beck and call.

Dinner was a few escalator rides and traversing a walkway away at Livestock Restaurant, which is probably home to the most tender and crunchiest crispy *pata* this side of the Pacific.

A quick trip to Tim Hortons for doughnuts and coffee was followed by drinks and some dancing at Revel at the Palace, which is one of BGC's newest party scenes.

Majority of the tour participants flew back to the CNMI and Guam early Sunday morning.

Resorts World Manila's Stay and Cruise promotion starts at just $655 per person. It is inclusive of a stay at two RWM hotels—Winford Hotel and Casino and Belmont—and a cruise aboard *SuperStar Virgo* as the luxury liner makes Manila its new homeport from March 19 to May 23.

Remaining sailing dates are March 29, April 3, 8, 13, 18, 23, and 28, and May 3, 8, 13, 18, and 23.

Guam and Saipan residents can directly avail of the Stay and Cruise package using credit card payments through the SSV RWM BUNDLE option at www.rwmanila.com/stayandcruise. The package is inclusive of two-night accommodations at Resorts World Manila hotels.

Those interested can also call John Hagemann at +63917878583/john.hagemann@rwmanila.com or Janine Chua at +639178788576/janine.chua@rwmanila for more details. For other inquiries and reservations, contact Tourist/Visitor Hotline at (02) 908-8833 or visit www.rwmanila.com.

MARK RABAGO
CNMI and Guam media as well as Stay and Cruise partners pose with St. Luke's Medical Center SVP and Marketing Group and Industry Relations head Jo C. Aguilar, middle.

MARK RABAGO
The author takes a selfie at Venice Grand Canal Mall's grand canal.

MARK RABAGO
Buddy's mouthwatering pancit lucban and Lucban longganisa.

MARK RABAGO
Bonifacio Global City's newest party place Revel at the Palace.

MARK RABAGO
Canada's iconic doughnut and coffee shop, Tim Hortons, has found a home at BGC's Uptown Mall.

MARK RABAGO
Uptown Mall Cinema is screening movies in style.

Senate delays passing of OPD bill

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate on Wednesday delayed the passage of a Senate bill that would create an Office of Planning and Development. The Senate would act on it at its next session this week, March 29, at the Tinian courthouse.

The Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs recommended the passage of Bill 20-2 in the form of Senate Draft 1.

Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), who introduced the bill, said that they would still look into comments made by the CNMI Zoning Board, and other remarks made by other agencies so they could include their input.

Zoning Board administrator Therese Ogumoro, in the letter addressed to Palacios, said the Zoning Office supports the intention of the bill since establishing OPD would centralize information and prove beneficial to the CNMI.

"The creation of [OPD] to centralize information from agencies will be most beneficial for our government and the CNMI's economic process to ensure that developments are supported by available resources within our means," Ogumoro said. "It is our understanding that [OPD] would not have regulatory functions but would prepare a comprehensive development plan to guide the regulatory process for the CNMI."

SB 20-2, SD1 aims to amend the Zoning Code of the CNMI and would not change related sections in the code. The bill, if it becomes a law, would amend the land use districts, transferring the functions from the Zoning board to OPD.

It also leaves Zoning's power unchanged in other sections of the law like 7242 that sets forth procedures to changes in district boundaries, uses, and requirements, and 7221 that governs public participation on proposed land use districts, boundaries or regulations.

Ogumoro then asked for clarification whether the bill would take away Zoning's responsibility to determine and make recommendations to the Legislature on land use districts. "Simply changing 7231 will lead to confusion in the interpretation of the code."

Palacios said there have been a lot of master plans that were submitted to the Legislature, that's why establishing OPD is necessary. "The Third Senatorial District is becoming chaotic. The Senate should be involved; it is time for us to move forward and put together a plan."

The OPD would manage the rapid economic growth the CNMI is currently experiencing with proper planning.

The Senate, meanwhile, also passed SB 20-3, limiting the term of the public high school student representative on the CNMI State Board of Education to one year and would rotate the appointment to the three senatorial Districts. Sen. Justo S. Quitugua introduced the bill.

FREE DICTIONARIES
The Saipan Rotary Club recently donated dictionaries to third grade students at Mount Carmel School.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMIS presents writer's workshop

It's been said that everyone has within them at least one great book! The Northern Marianas International School wants to help aspiring writers discover, develop and distribute that great book to a world of readers! On Saturday, April 8, 2017, from 9am to 12pm, author and book coach Walt Goodridge will present another in the Saipan Writer's Workshop series.

Goodridge

Do you have an idea for a new book? Want to publish independently and earn more than traditionally-published authors? Want to re-issue your out-of-print, locally-published book and sell it to a global audience through Amazon? Want to know how to report your author income/claim deductions on your taxes? The whole process is easier than you may realize and may not cost a penny out of your pocket!

"You can finish your manuscript on Monday and have your book available on Amazon by Tuesday," said Goodridge. "We've already helped a few local authors publish their books once they understood just how technology has lowered the historical barriers to entry for new authors."

Attend the upcoming Saipan Writer's Workshop on Saturday, April 8, from 9am to noon at Northern Marianas International School (Room 103, first floor, Nauru/360 building; $10 adult/$5 student) to learn more! Remember, "repetition is the key to mastery." So, even if you've attended these workshops in past, come again! There's always something new to learn! (Pre-register at www.saipanwriters.com/events). ***(PR)***

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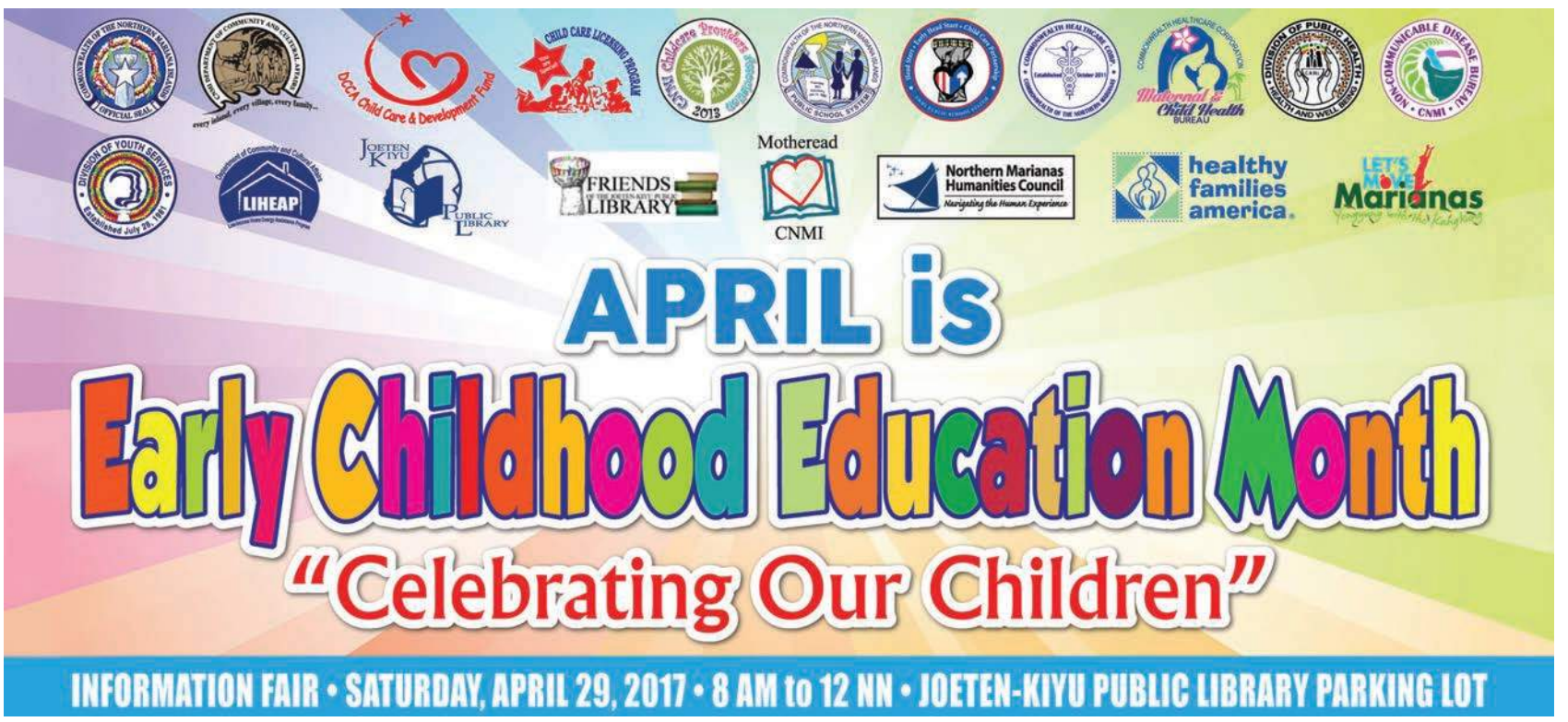
Ask if your baby passed the test. If you have concerns or your baby needs follow up call 236-8709.
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Printing funded by the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Grant under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration.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Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Reasons to flee US don't outnumber sheep in New Zealand

By REG HENRY
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Before the election of President Donald Grump, some Americans pledged to leave the county if, by some crazy chance, he were to win the White House.

This departure of the disappointed always struck me as a bad idea. My view is that when the going gets tough, the tough should not get going to other countries. They should stay here and get pouting prior to get organizing.

But, apparently, some disillusioned Americans have decided to flee. The Associated Press recently reported that U.S. applications for New Zealand citizenship rose by 70 percent in the month after the election compared with last year, although the total increase was just 70 people. This is a small flock by New Zealand standards, where the sheep far outnumber the humans.

Before this trend grows any further and spreads to nearby Australia, which is also sometimes mentioned as a possible refuge for liberals and other malcontents, it is necessary to point out the drawbacks of such a drastic move.

As it happens, I am just the man for the job because I am from Australia originally and visited New Zealand and Australia last month. There, I fielded various questions about our new president from flabbergasted locals, who had made the mistake of thinking their old ally was sensible. Basically, people said to me: What the heck is going on with Americans? Good question. Some of us here have been asking the same thing.

But that worry is no reason to flee the country. Deal with it, folks. Besides, it is the height of American arrogance to assume that people in Australia or New Zealand can't produce their own egotistical bullies and jerks to make life irritating. Give the Aussies and Kiwis some credit, mate!

My daughter, Allison, lives in Sydney, re-creating my life in reverse, so I am not entirely against people leaving their native heath to seek a life elsewhere. I just don't think they should do it because they despair of America, which divine providence has gifted with the ability to muddle through no matter how ridiculous the situation.

Allison never despaired. She went to high school in Australia for one semester and made lots of friends, and later in life she chose a husband who likes surfing—perfectly reasonable reasons to leave. The rest of you would encounter extreme cultural differences.

For example, you might move to Australia and find yourself having babies, which is what Allison eventually did. Every young woman in Australia seems to be pregnant. It is hard to say whether the romantic moon upon the Pacific or something in the drinking water is responsible.

What is shocking is that socialized medicine operates in Australia and Allison had her babies virtually for free, received excellent care and was given a generous stipend for

See REASONS on Page 13

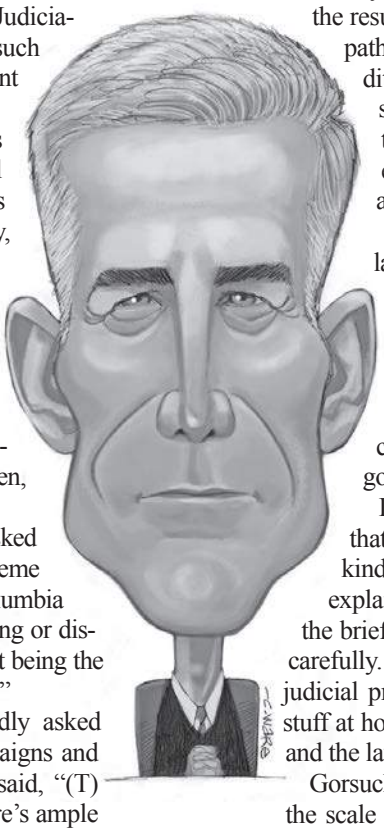
Gorsuch knows judges are law-interpreters, not creators

By ELIZABETH SLATTERY
Tribune News Service

Elizabeth Slattery is a legal fellow at The Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, D.C., 20002; Website: www.heritage.org. Information about Heritage's funding may be found at http://www.heritage.org/about/reports.cfm.

We don't hire umpires because we expect them to help a particular team win. We hire them to make the right calls, no matter what. The best ones know the rulebook inside out and backwards _ and make a point of being scrupulously impartial.

The same goes for Supreme Court justices. And after two marathon days of questioning by the Senate Judiciary Committee, Tenth Circuit Judge Neil Gorsuch demonstrated why he would make an excellent addition to the high court.



Gorsuch's mastery of the law was obvious, as was his commitment to being a fair and impartial judge and his record of taking the text of laws and the Constitution seriously. Most importantly, he showed that he understands the limited role judges should play in our government.

In exchange after exchange with senators during the hearing, Gorsuch underscored that it is their job, not his, to make the law. After all, judges are not politicians in robes. Their role is to interpret the law in cases before them. It's essential that judges interpret the law as it is written, rather than how they wish it was written.

So when Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., asked Gorsuch if he agrees with the seminal 2008 Supreme Court Second Amendment case, District of Columbia v. Heller, he replied, "It's not a matter of agreeing or disagreeing, senator. Respectfully, it's a matter of it being the law. And my job is to apply and enforce the law."

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., repeatedly asked Gorsuch about so-called dark money in campaigns and requiring the disclosure of donors. Gorsuch said, "(T)hat's a political question for this body, and there's ample room for this body to pass disclosure laws for dark money." He continued, "(W)ith all due respect, the ball's in your court."

Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., brought up a case involving a litigant with whom many would sympathize, a trucker who was fired for failing to follow his employer's instructions because he was trying not to freeze to death on the job. Gorsuch dissented from his court's ruling, which found for the trucker despite plain statutory text that supported the employer's decision.

Franken criticized Gorsuch's dissenting opinion, saying judges should stray from applying the plain meaning of statutes if the result would be absurd. Gorsuch said that he empathized with the trucker's dilemma, but the absurdity exception does not allow judges to ignore statutory text simply because they don't like the outcome. It applies to things like drafting errors in the text. This case epitomizes the old adage that hard cases make bad law.

In a speech last year, Gorsuch, quoting the late Justice Antonin Scalia, pointed out that if a judge always likes the outcome of cases he decides, he is probably doing something wrong. Gorsuch is not one of those judges. He's ruled in favor of prisoners' claims, but he's also ruled against them. He's ruled for big companies, but also for workers. He's ruled for government agencies, but also against them.

During his confirmation hearing, Gorsuch said that he treats "each person as a person, not a this kind of person or a that kind of person." He also explained, "I listen to the arguments made, I read the briefs that are put to me. I listen to my colleagues carefully. I listen to the lawyers in the well. ... I take the judicial process very seriously. ... I leave all the other stuff at home. And I make a decision based on the facts and the law."

Gorsuch has shown that he doesn't put a thumb on the scale for certain interest groups and that he leaves his personal policy preferences at home when deciding cases. That's exactly the kind of justice we need on the Supreme Court.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has said this nominee will be confirmed one way or another. If he gets his way, Neil Gorsuch will be sitting on the Supreme Court later this spring. For Americans who care about a fair and impartial judiciary, that's an encouraging prediction.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The contextual reality of the present time for the people of the Marianas

By DEAN PAPADOPOULOS
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Water can cut a large piece of rock out of a mountain—Old Man By The Sea—not because of its strength but because of its persistence (*author unknown*). A culture's survival, that is, a people's survival, is based on the same variables that allow some species to survive while leading other species to their demise. Adaptation to current changes in the people who come and leave the community; adaptation to the laws that can uproot a whole segment of society and, at other times, open the door of opportunity for still other groups; and adaptation to the technological advances that find their way into the economy that require further education beyond the 12th grade. Adaptation allows a people to thrive and survive. No one knows adaptation better than the Chamorros and the Carolinians of the CNMI, for they have adapted to nature's interruptions as well as to social and political challenges. When the Spanish arrived, they resisted, were then all but decimated and, finally, and unwillingly adapted to a "guest" who imposed their language, their religion, their customs on a people that could not have been more different than that of this European colonizer. The Chamorros and Carolinians would adapt three more times to unwelcome invaders who stayed and built this place in the image of their homes: Germany, Japan, and the United States of America. Chamorros and Carolinians have survived because they have adapted. Let us celebrate their resiliency, their hope, and their strong survival instinct as two distinct ethnic groups that occupy the same land.

The water that shapes the culture and the present-day reality of the Chamorros and Carolinians in the early part of the 21st century, slowly and gradually (and imperceptibly), chips away at the foundation of their respective cultures. A new language, American English, is sometimes substituted, instead of added to the Chamorro and Carolinian languages. Another droplet of water is the mass digital culture projected into homes and minds through the mass mediums of cable television and the worldwide web and dissolves the homegrown culture with a culture of fiction and fake reality, convincing people here that they share similar challenges with other minorities in the mainland United States, while not really capturing the regional challenges of being an island community that borders Southeast Asia and Asia and happens to use systems from a North American country, 9,000 miles away. Things couldn't be stranger.

Like water cutting through the rock of a mountain, we often don't think of small contextual changes as threats to a culture, especially one that is 3,500 years old, like that of the Chamorros and Carolinians. But, the facts are different: demographic, legal, and technological changes are like the droplets of water that gradually cut through a culture's foundation and wreak havoc with a people's identity. The solution is simple: a focused and concerted effort to do three things to redirect the energies of people who want to sustain their culture here and adapt to an imposed culture that requires learning: a new language, new norms that are in contrast with island norms (individualism versus collectivism); and an uncomfortable and, for some, an undesirable feat of joining a colonizer's system while not betraying their natural desire to be free from external input and externally imposed laws and standards. Before this chasm becomes too wide to cross, before this chasm leaves us with another extinct culture, before this chasm annihilates a people who have been casualties of large battles for land and geographical advantage by countries with large navies, let us consider some intensive critical care as a solution.

First, an intentional effort and focus on preserving the culture by a) using its language must occur. Decisions to speak and use the language at home will be the metric upon which this will be successful or not. The school has said it is interested in bilingual education, but the resources allocated and used to support resources (including translations in Chamorro and Carolinian, costs for printing, incentives to author books in Chamorro and Carolinian, and efforts to standardize the bilingual instruction are wanting at best). This must be a concerted community effort, if it is to have its intended success. Secondly, an intentional effort and focus on securing the place—the land—where the Chamorro and Carolinian customs and rituals are practiced, must be made by holding on to both public and private land. A culture without land has no place to practice their customs and rituals and rites of passage. A culture without land—like, present-day Assyrians (with an "A") is an endangered culture…endangered of vanishing like so many other cultures that have already vanished (Phoenicians, Babylonians, Carthagians, etc.). Thirdly, an intentional effort and focus to codify the Chamorro and Carolinian languages in written form, so that these are recorded and hence preserved, for present and future generations.

> *Like water cutting through the rock of a mountain, we often don't think of small contextual changes as threats to a culture, especially one that is 3,500 years old, like that of the Chamorros and Carolinians. But demographic, legal, and technological changes are like the droplets of water that gradually cut through a culture's foundation and wreak havoc with a people's identity.*

So, there is a clear problem—that of gradual and imperceptible change that slowly chips away at the foundation of Chamorro and Carolinian cultures, as well as a clear solution to this challenge.

Societal shifts are impacting people around the world, including Chamorros and Carolinians. We will explore three of these shifts before we list particular local societal shifts that are added to this set of macro variables that further challenge (and complicate) the work of maintaining Chamorro and Carolinian identity without being lost in the values and vices of a TV and internet culture whose values are commercial and marketplace-driven, as opposed to values that emphasize familial and community values.

The macro and micro variables we will explore are the water droplets of demographic shifts, legal shifts, and technological shifts that impact every human being on the planet, including denizens of the Mariana Islands in the Western Pacific Ocean.

The world's population has ballooned. Three-fifths or 60 percent of the world's population is found in Asia alone, with whom we share the neighborhood as Chamorros and Carolinians. This incredible challenge has provided opportunities to entrepreneurs and to laborers alike. We have seen the impact of a developing Japan, of a developing Korea, and, now of a developing China. We adapted, not only to political colonizers, but to economic colonizers as well. Some of these people have integrated themselves into the community, while others, in their quest to get as rich as quickly as it is possible to do so and return to their homeland, have done anything and everything imaginable without one iota of care for the people of the Marianas, let alone the preservation of their culture. Demographic shifts impact all of us.

The legal shifts have impacted Chamorros and Carolinians here on a scale of a tsunami wave. It is difficult enough to create laws and enforce them to make a safer and improved community by lawmakers who live here… that's difficult enough. When the reality that federal laws can be enacted that were created by people who have never lived here and are acting solely in the interest of the country—as opposed to acting in the interest of the Chamorros and Carolinians—then that level of uncertainty and arbitrary imposition of laws makes it futile to imagine what a great society here might look like. In other words: you cannot decide on the color you want to paint your house if you know your neighbor can come over at any time and paint over it with the color of their choice. The Chamorros and Carolinians have been handed this bad deal, and it impacts their ability to determine their own destiny.

Thirdly, the technological inventions that have become additions to society, whether it be in homes, at schools and colleges, or in the economy, have changed the way we communicate—and don't communicate—has changed many hours of work we all do—have increased the number of hours we work in a day—and have changed how much information we have access to. Today, without knowledge of a computer, a person will not be hired as a clerk for minimum wage by the local supermarket. Think about that for a moment. Similarly, without knowledge of basic software programs, a person will not be hired in the school system and in the economy. Technological shifts (that is, "changes") impact all of us.

Micro variables impact modern-day life and living here in the Marianas for the Chamorros and Carolinians and, in fact, for the other people who live and work here as well. These locally experienced micro shifts (i.e., "changes") impact our present-day experience in the Marianas and include: a huge brain drain that accompanied an economic downturn that lasted nearly 20 years; a brain-substitute that has been occurring for decades which has brought English speaking people from other countries to do work here that Chamorros and Carolinians could do but for a whole lot less, thus displacing people by decisions driven by profit instead of principle; and, life as it is experienced in an atmosphere of questions concerning political status and its impact on people's decision to participate in the economy.

Water can cut through rock as well as it can irrigate our farms, boil our food, and satisfy our thirst. The point of view that we take on these macro and micro variable—all facts…and, none opinion—will determine our attitude, which will determine what we do and, consequently, the outcome we will live with. We have to ask ourselves in the Marianas, a place where Chamorro and Carolinian cultures have thrived for 3,500 years, whether we see an opportunity or an obstacle. That choice is as important as whether we see water as a source of life for our crops or whether we see water as the knife that can separates a large rock from an enormous mountain.

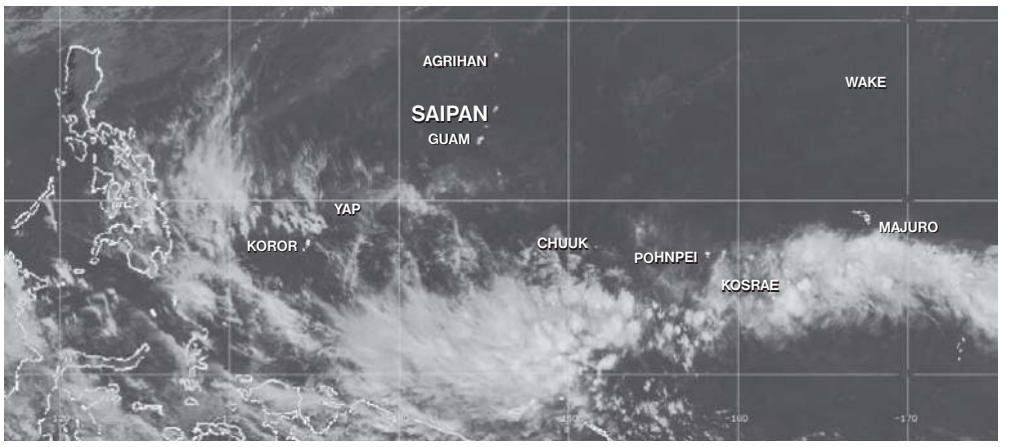
Dr. Dean Papadopoulos is an associate professor of Education at the Northern Marianas College.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:27 AM, MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Deep convection remains sparse around the Marianas. It is expected to pick up a bit as the shear line to our northwest approaches. Nonetheless, this is quite late in the year for a shear line so will have to watch this carefully. On this morning`s ASCAT there is no clear source for the winds that are supposed to arrive just 48 hours from now. It is always possible they will develop in situ, this seems a bit of a stretch at this time. However, for now, it was hard to go against all the available model guidance, so just undercut some of the most aggressive ones. Seas rise from 4 to 6 feet today to between 8 and 10 feet on Wednesday. How much of this, though, is wind wave due to the expected winds mentioned above? If those winds do not materialize, or do emerge but are underwhelming, the seas could be less. Even if a small craft advisory is needed, it would likely be marginal and rather short lived. At this time a high surf advisory is not expected.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87 | 78 °F
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	87 | 78 °F
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	87 | 71 °F
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	84 | 80 °F
Pohnpei	Overcast	82 | 79 °F
Kosrae	Rain	85 | 80 °F
Majuro	Overcast	85 | 79 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼	°F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	72 | 63 °F
Beijing	Clear	58 | 38 °F
Hong Kong	Scattered Clouds	71 | 64 °F
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85 | 71 °F
London	Mostly Cloudy	59 | 50 °F
Los Angeles	Clear	73 | 53 °F
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90 | 77 °F
Melbourne	Clear	75 | 54 °F
Miami	Clear	82 | 67 °F
New York	Overcast	49 | 42 °F
Osaka	Clear	56 | 44 °F
Paris	Clear	64 | 48 °F
Pusan	Overcast	60 | 39 °F
Rome	Clear	65 | 46 °F
Salem	Overcast	54 | 44 °F
San Francisco	Clear	67 | 53 °F
Seoul	Haze	56 | 35 °F
Tokyo	Overcast	57 | 38 °F
Washington, DC	Overcast	74 | 51 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:48 AM	LOW TIDE	0.09
7:56 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.02
2:13 PM	LOW TIDE	0.34
8:04 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.04

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:15 AM	6:28 PM
Wednesday	6:14 AM	6:29 PM
Thursday	6:14 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:12 AM	6:29 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:14 AM	6:39 PM	-
Wednesday	7:01 AM	7:38 PM	-
Thursday	7:50 AM	8:38 PM	-
Friday	8:41 AM	9:39 PM	-
Saturday	9:34 AM	10:40 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 25, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)

7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 3, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN

7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Our political status

There exists a misconception about our CNMI. Many people believe that because we are a commonwealth, we belong to the United States, as if we are a property or territory of the U.S. Wrong. We don't belong to the U.S.A. Neither the U.S. Congress, nor the U.S. President, has yet to agree that we are a U.S.-owned territory. *The CNMI is not U.S. soil.* If we are a U.S. territory, then Delegate Greg Kilili would be a U.S. congressman with voting power. But we don't have that distinction. We've been existing for thousands of years, long before Magellan came to the scene. *Man Chamoru hit, man Refaluasch hit. Man metizo hit,* all kinds. *Man* U.S. citizen *hit*. Lau i tanota tisiña ma designa na U.S. owned-territory *sa ti linagak i nina-siñan i tanota ni ginagagau na katgu. Man danña hit yan A*merica *gi pot gobietnamento yan pot nesisidat, lau ti tano gobietnon* America *i tano ta. Anai ta fitma i documenton alianza* (Covenant), *dos ha na asunton nai mangon fotmi hit,* Foreign Policy *yan* Defense Echelons. Political Union via the Covenant. We are not incorporated into the political framework of the United States to be a U.S. territory. Now, the lands leased by the U.S. under the Covenant—the document of political alliance—are controlled by the U.S., but they do not belong to the U.S., no different than the leases made by outside investors. They have leasehold interest, they control the land for the lease term but do not own them That interest has a finite term, subject to renewal. The landowner owns the land or the interest in the land. The lease terms are finite. They end at a certain time, according to the signed agreement, subject to renewal. I say that "if" we are a U.S.-owned territory, like Guam, then the U.S. doesn't need to lease. Bu we not have Guam's political status, the Organic Act of 1950. We are a commonwealth of 1976. It is a type of political status, a give-and-take situation. But you don't own me, not yet. That issue belongs to the U.S. Congress and the President of the United States, and not by any subservient agency or Tom, Dick, and Harry. President Truman said "no." We had our friends in Congress maneuver the document through the subcommittee to get our Covenant approved. One such friend was Rep. Phil Burton. Commonwealth. It is the term conveniently deemed by the U.S. as the one with which it can maintain control over these islands. Wait, we did give the U.S. control but for two very specific reasons, foreign affairs and defense *only*. Hmmm, something's amiss. Well, we are American citizens, oh, but that's because we agreed that the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution will be applied here. That, along with 13 other amendments and a couple of section under articles 1 and 4, a select few, not all. We cannot even vote for President. Now I know that Trump's not my president. Really, no joke.

Moving on, people might argue that the CNMI is an unincorporated territory like Guam and Puerto Rico. That is wrong. These islands belong to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, along with the waters surrounding these islands up to 200 miles. That was until the U.S. took possession of our waters up to the shoreline. Then they returned from the shore out to 12 miles. At one time, one former Covenant negotiator was asked after the fact why our negotiators did not fight for our waters. His response was, "Because it was ours. We didn't have to bring it up in the negotiation." So, the question which begs a straight answer then is, why would the U.S. do what it did? Does it have absolute control over the NMI? Well, if it did, then it did not have to lease the lands on Tinian, Saipan, and Farallon de Mendinilla, right? Guam is a possession of the U.S., so did the U.S. lease Andersen Air Force Base along with Naval Station from the people of Guam? Get my point?

Okay, back to basics, we are a commonwealth. What does that really mean? One definition reads: "Commonwealth " is a state or a nation in which the people possess sovereignty." Well, we're neither a state nor a nation and we lost our sovereignty when we entered into our political union with the U.S. Wait, we were sovereign once, how did we lose our sovereignty? Did we give that up willingly or did the U.S. Covenant negotiators finagle our CNMI negotiators into agreeing to something they did not fully understand? Maybe our Covenant was not such an honorable accord, huh? Perhaps Mr. Willens can explain this deal about our political status. And sovereignty, of course.

Last, the federal takeover of our immigration control was not an accident. It was not because of the so-called labor abuses during our garment industry days, it was a deliberate action by the federal government. Can it do that over a group of islands it does not own? Can it do the same to another country, say like the Philippines which it also does not own? Well, more on that later. The U.S. should return our immigration system to us.

That's how the U.S. is controlling our life, all phases of it.

Rudy M. Sablan
Garapan, Saipan

REASONS

From Page 10

her civic-minded fertility. Her children, my granddaughters, Tillie and Lucy, now 5 and 3, have repaid the government largesse by developing Aussie accents that even I find incomprehensible.

Tillie started public school when we visited, with more than 140 kids in the various kindergarten classes thanks to whatever is in the water. Every student wears a uniform and they parade military-style before classes begin. She loves it, but some Americans might consider it too orderly.

Nobody much worries about mass school shootings in Australia because a conservative prime minister led the effort to ban most guns 20 years ago. Remarkably, Australians are no less free now but attend fewer funerals. None of this is what you are used to.

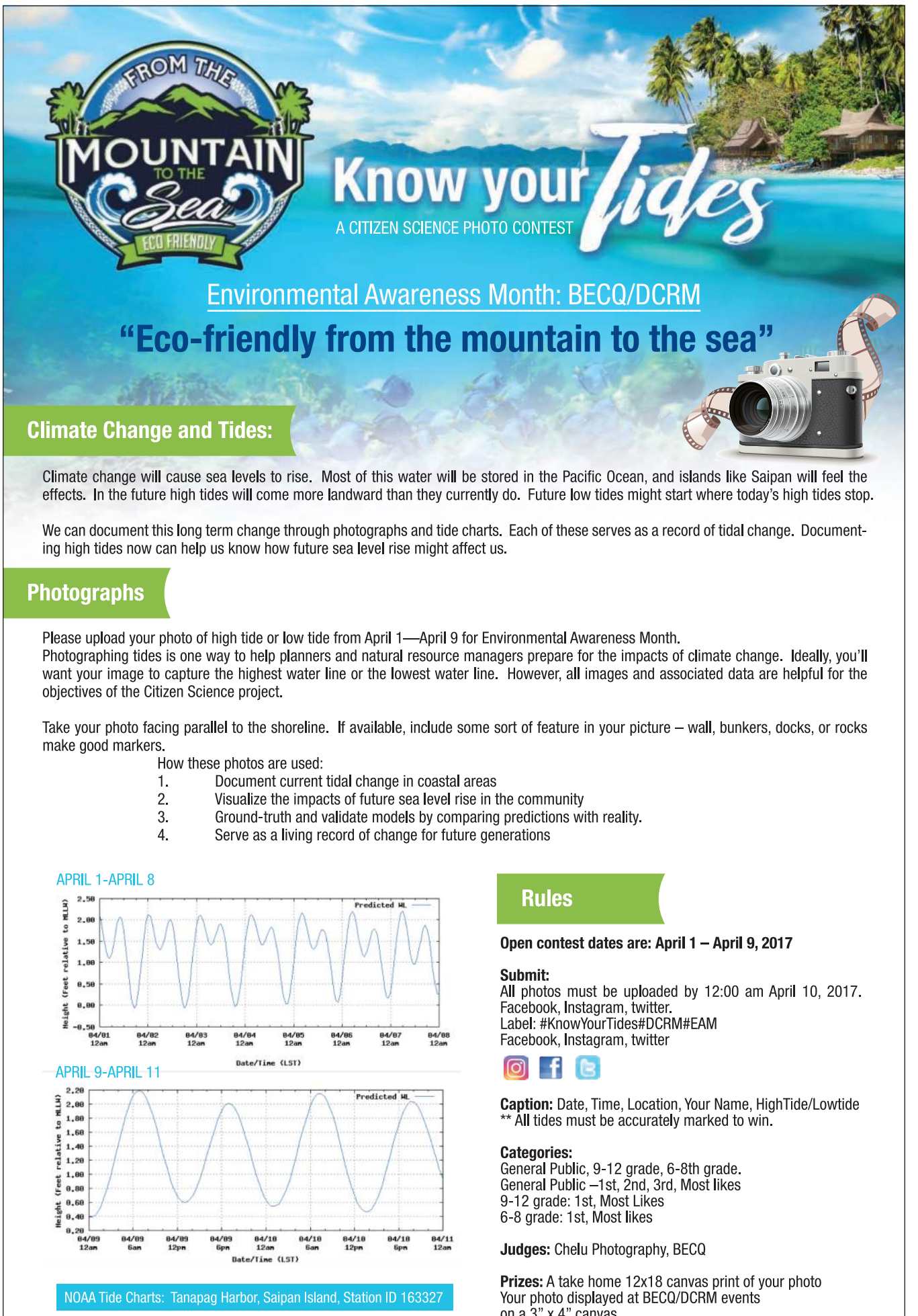
After Australia, we traveled to the South Island of New Zealand. It is incredibly beautiful. They have fjords and waterfalls in abundance. O beautiful for spacious skies? They have them. Amber waves of grain? They have them, too, but only until the sheep eat them. What they really have is ample waves of lambs.

This is not somewhere you want to immigrate to. A lot of social pressure exists to eat the lambs before they overrun the county—and they are so darned cute. Moreover, TV seems to consist of mostly rugby games and commentary.

At the risk of offending very large people with cauliflower ears—and that's just the women—rugby strategy is simpler than American football and doesn't really require the hours of discussion devoted to it on New Zealand TV.

No, you need to stay here and chew the old lamb chop of American problems. Besides, if you left, it would be a source of joy to people who deserve to remain miserable. Can't have that.

Reg Henry is a Pittsburgh Post-Gazette columnist. Readers may email him at rhenry@post-gazette.com


FROM THE
MOUNTAIN
TO THE
Sea
ECO FRIENDLY
Know your Tides
A CITIZEN SCIENCE PHOTO CONTEST
Environmental Awareness Month: BECQ/DCRM
"Eco-friendly from the mountain to the sea"
Climate Change and Tides:
Climate change will cause sea levels to rise. Most of this water will be stored in the Pacific Ocean, and islands like Saipan will feel the effects. In the future high tides will come more landward than they currently do. Future low tides might start where today's high tides stop.
We can document this long term change through photographs and tide charts. Each of these serves as a record of tidal change. Documenting high tides now can help us know how future sea level rise might affect us.
Photographs
Please upload your photo of high tide or low tide from April 1—April 9 for Environmental Awareness Month.
Photographing tides is one way to help planners and natural resource managers prepare for the impacts of climate change. Ideally, you'll want your image to capture the highest water line or the lowest water line. However, all images and associated data are helpful for the objectives of the Citizen Science project.
Take your photo facing parallel to the shoreline. If available, include some sort of feature in your picture – wall, bunkers, docks, or rocks make good markers.
How these photos are used:
1. Document current tidal change in coastal areas
2. Visualize the impacts of future sea level rise in the community
3. Ground-truth and validate models by comparing predictions with reality.
4. Serve as a living record of change for future generations
APRIL 1-APRIL 8
Predicted WL
Height (Feet relative to MLLW)
Date/Time (LST)
APRIL 9-APRIL 11
Predicted WL
Height (Feet relative to MLLW)
Date/Time (LST)
NOAA Tide Charts: Tanapag Harbor, Saipan Island, Station ID 163327
Rules
Open contest dates are: April 1 – April 9, 2017
Submit:
All photos must be uploaded by 12:00 am April 10, 2017.
Facebook, Instagram, twitter.
Label: #KnowYourTides#DCRM#EAM
Facebook, Instagram, twitter
Caption: Date, Time, Location, Your Name, HighTide/Lowtide
** All tides must be accurately marked to win.
Categories:
General Public, 9-12 grade, 6-8th grade.
General Public –1st, 2nd, 3rd, Most likes
9-12 grade: 1st, Most Likes
6-8 grade: 1st, Most likes
Judges: Chelu Photography, BECQ
Prizes: A take home 12x18 canvas print of your photo
Your photo displayed at BECQ/DCRM events
on a 3" x 4" canvas

Business

New anxieties as Trump says Obamacare will 'explode'

ATLANTA (AP)—Americans who have benefited from the Affordable Care Act are feeling some relief at the failure of Republican efforts to repeal it, but they face new anxieties with President Donald Trump tweeting that "ObamaCare will explode."

Premiums have risen and major insurers have backed out of the state markets where people can buy insurance online under Obama's signature health care law. But people who say it saved their lives or helped them start a business want lawmakers to fix these problems, not encourage them.

"It does need its fixes, I totally see that," said Inge Hafkemeyer, 57, who credits the law's subsidies for containing her costs as her home-based event-planning business took off in Mission, Kansas, a Kansas City suburb. "But if your roof leaks, you don't burn down the house to fix it."

Clare Schexnyder, 49, is convinced she's alive today because of it. As a small business owner in Decatur, Georgia, she couldn't afford health insurance until the rollout in 2013. She began getting mammograms, and her breast cancer was spotted in time. Her double mastectomy and reconstruction surgery was priced at $250,000, but she paid no more than her $6,200 annual deductible.

Then, her daughter spent a week in the hospital after her appendix burst, costing them another $6,200. They took out a second mortgage to pay the bills.

"An appendectomy shouldn't have to make me refinance my house," she said. "It's still not a perfect system by any means, but I'm glad we have it."

Schexnyder's insurer pulled out of the Affordable Care Act last year, leaving fewer alternatives in Georgia, one of the states that refused to set up insurance exchanges or participate in Medicaid expansion.

But she objects to tweets like this one Trump sent on Saturday: "ObamaCare will explode and we will all get together and piece together a great healthcare plan for THE PEOPLE. Do not worry."

"They're setting it up to fail, which is irresponsible and unforgiveable," Schexnyder said.

AP

Steven Martin, 27, of Los Angeles, who says he has chronic myeloid leukemia, joins hundreds of people march through downtown Los Angeles protesting President Donald Trump's plan to dismantle the Affordable Care Act, his predecessor's signature health care law, Thursday, March 23, 2017.

Iran strikes back at the US with 'reciprocal' sanctions

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran on Sunday sanctioned what it described as 15 American companies, alleging they support terrorism, repression and Israel's occupation of land Palestinians want for a future state, likely in retaliation for sanctions earlier announced by the U.S.

The wide-ranging list from an American real estate company to a major arms manufacturer appeared more symbolic than anything else as the firms weren't immediately known to be doing business anywhere in the Islamic Republic.

A Foreign Ministry statement carried by the state-run IRNA news agency said the sanctions barred companies from any agreements with Iranian firms and that former and current directors would not be eligible for visas. It also said any of the company's assets in Iran could be seized.

"The sanctioned companies have, directly and/or indirectly, been involved in the brutal atrocities committed by the Zionist regime in the occupied Palestinian territories, or they have supported the regime's terrorist activities and Israel's development of Zionist settlements on the Palestinian soil," the IRNA report said.

The IRNA report referred to the sanctions as a "reciprocal act," without elaborating.

Longtime receptionist ready for new challenge

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.*

Q: I recently asked my boss about possibly moving to a different position. I was stunned when he replied, "That's not likely to happen because you're just too good at your job." After working here for 16 years, I found his response to be extremely demoralizing.

Eleven years ago, the owners decided to make me the office receptionist. Although I expressed concern about being tethered to a switchboard all day, they said my outstanding phone personality could really help the business. Now they won't even consider putting anyone else in this role.

I have more to offer than a pleasant voice and a friendly face, so being trapped in an entry-level position is frustrating. Apparently, the reward for good work here is being stuck in the same job forever. I don't want to leave, but I'm becoming impatient. Do you have any advice?

A: By ignoring your obvious discontent, these managers are being extremely short-sighted. If career stagnation causes you to leave, they will not only have to find another receptionist but they'll also lose your many years of knowledge and experience. Instead of focusing on convenience, they should be thinking about retention.

Part of the problem may simply be familiarity. After 11 years of seeing you at the front desk, your boss might have difficulty imagining you anywhere else. So perhaps you can help him expand his vision.

Identify one or two feasible jobs and then prepare a summary showing how your abilities match those duties. Next, outline specific steps for smoothly transitioning to a new receptionist. Present this proposal to your manager and see how he responds.

For example: "Bob, I think you know how dedicated I am to this company. However, after 11 years as the receptionist, I'm hoping for a chance to contribute in a different way. I've identified two job possibilities, so I would like to discuss how I might eventually move into one of those roles."

If your boss is willing to consider this plan, you can collaborate on a realistic timeline. But if he still seems to view you as a permanent lobby fixture, then you may want to consider other options.

Q: As a new manager, I'm not sure how to handle a difficult performance review. "Brent" is an argumentative employee who blatantly ignores my instructions, so he will not be getting a great evaluation. However, on his self-assessment, Brent gave himself a perfect score. How should I address this?

A: Inflating self-appraisals is actually a fairly common tactic. By giving themselves only the highest scores, these employees hope to nudge their boss's rating upward. Smart managers simply ignore this ploy and bring poor performers back to reality by calmly stating the facts.

For example: "Brent, I noticed that your self-assessment includes only the highest ratings. Since we've already discussed some performance issues, you obviously know my evaluation won't be that high. So let's talk about what's going well with your job and what needs to improve."

The most effective self-appraisals replace rating scales with narrative comments. Having people rate themselves adds absolutely no value and shifts the focus from discussing performance to comparing numbers.

STRATEGIC GAMING SOLUTIONS, INC.
is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Sous Chef (1)
Must have a high school diploma or equivalent plus two (2) to three (3) years of work experience as a cook in a restaurant or hotel. Preferably with experience in Western, Japanese and Chinese cuisine. Must be willing to work shifts, holidays and weekends.

Interested applicants may pick up an application at our HR Office located within Kanoa Resort, Susupe Beach Road from Monday to Friday between the hour of 10:30am to 5:30pm. Applications must be supported with resume and certificates. Last day of submission of application is March 29, 2017.

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons
are encouraged to apply.

GPPC, INC. Job Opening:

Civil Engineering Technicians (02) $6.60/hr. - $7.50/hour.
Must be a college graduate with minimum of 2- years experience as a Civil Engineering Technician with knowledge how to apply Theory and Principles of Civil Engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction, structure maintenance and facilities under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientists

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Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as Heavy Equipment Mechanic. With knowledge how to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automobiles, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, excavators, trucks and conveyors, typically used in constructions.

All of the above positions must be able to work flexible time. Interested applicants may apply at GPPC, Inc. office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing maybe required. GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Closing Date: April 04, 2017

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282
Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a special meeting on **Wednesday, March 29, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

I. Preliminary Matters
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Correspondence

II. Public Comments**

III. Executive Session***
A. Discuss Financing on the Purchase of Engine

IV. Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting.
** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Nation

Police search for suspects in deadly nightclub shooting

AP
A body is removed as police operate at a crime scene outside the Cameo club after a fatal shooting, Sunday, March 26, 2017, in Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI (AP) —Cincinnati police searched for suspects in a nightclub shooting that left one man dead and 15 other people injured and sent club patrons diving to the ground to dodge bullets in what they described as a chaotic and terrifying scene.

A gunfight broke out inside the crowded Cameo club early Sunday after a dispute among several patrons escalated into a shootout, authorities said. Some 200 people were inside the club near the Ohio River east of downtown Cincinnati at the time.

"What we know at this point in the investigation is that several local men got into some type of dispute inside the bar, and it escalated into shots being fired from several individuals," Cincinnati Police Chief Eliot Isaac said. It was not immediately clear how many people fired shots.

O'Bryan Spikes, 27, was killed and 15 other people were injured. At least five victims remained hospitalized Monday morning. A University of Cincinnati Medical Center spokeswoman said two were in critical condition and three were in stable.

No suspects were in custody in the shooting at the club, which police said has a history of gun violence.

Club patron Mauricio Thompson described a chaotic scene in which as many as 20 shots were fired as people scrambled to get away. He said there was a fight and people were yelling for security to intervene before the gunfire began.

"Once I got outside, people coming out bloody, gunshot wounds on them, some of their friends carrying them to the car, rushing them to the hospital," Thompson told WCPO-TV. "It was just crazy."

Another patron told the television station that she dove to the ground outside of the nightclub to dodge bullets, and that her boyfriend climbed on top of her to protect her.

"I thought I was going to die. At that point survival skills started kicking in," said Sherell, who preferred not to give her last name. "Once I heard the third shot—I didn't know whether it was coming from outside, someone was shooting at the club, or whether it was coming from inside."

Isaac said the club has its own security operation that uses detection wands and pat-downs, but that police believe several firearms somehow got inside. Four officers were working security in the club's parking lot and some tried unsuccessfully to revive the man who died.

The club has a history of gun violence, including a shooting inside the club on New Year's Day in 2015 and one in the parking lot in September of that year, City Manager Harry Black said.

'Still one of us': 92-year-old gets Purple Heart from WWII

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (AP)—A 92-year-old North Carolina man has finally received the Purple Heart he earned more than 70 years ago while fighting in Belgium during World War II.

Oscar Davis Jr. was a private assigned as a radio telephone operator when he was knocked down by a large piece of shrapnel during the Battle of the Bulge, according to a Fayetteville Observer report (http://bit.ly/2o6jJiD). The radio on Davis' back protected him, but the German artillery barrage knocked down a tree that fell on Davis, injuring his spine.

He was paralyzed from the waist down for three weeks and ultimately rejoined his unit in Germany.

Davis was told long ago that he would receive the honor, but the award paperwork was never signed.

Decades later, he smiled from ear to ear as Lt. Col. Marcus Wright leaned down to pin the Purple Heart to his jacket on Saturday.

"This has been some day," Davis said. "I couldn't believe all this was going to happen. I just want to thank the Lord."

Friends, family and more than two dozen soldiers with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, attended the ceremony.

Wright, commander of the 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, presided over the event. Davis belonged to the same regiment.

The ceremony was the culmination of nearly two years of work by the Veterans Legacy Foundation, a Harnett County-based volunteer organization that has helped more than 100 veterans receive military awards owed to them.

John Elskamp, executive director of the foundation, said volunteers scoured an archive of war reports to find proof of Davis' injuries.

The Purple Heart was the latest medal the group recovered for Davis. In late 2015, the group helped the World War II veteran to receive the Bronze Star and other medals that were awarded to him in a ceremony at the U.S. Army Airborne & Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville.

Capt. Andrew Hammack, commander of A Company, 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, said Davis is "still one of us."

"He's just not currently reporting for duty," Hammack said.

Schumer seizes on Trump team's offer to work with Dems

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump's aides opened the door to working with moderate Democrats on health care and other issues while Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer quickly offered to find common ground with Trump for repairing former President Barack Obama's health care law.

Schumer said Sunday that Trump must be willing to drop attempts to repeal his predecessor's signature achievement, warning that Trump was destined to "lose again" on other parts of his agenda if he remained beholden to conservative Republicans.

Trump initially focused the blame for the failure on Democrats and predicted a dire future for the current law. But on Sunday he turned his criticism toward conservative lawmakers for the failure of the Republican bill, complaining on Twitter: "Democrats are smiling in D.C. that the Freedom Caucus, with the help of Club For Growth and Heritage, have saved Planned Parenthood & Ocare!"

The Freedom Caucus is a hard-right group of more than 30 GOP House members who were largely responsible for blocking the bill to undo the Affordable Care Act, or "Obamacare." The bill was pulled from the House floor Friday in a humiliating political defeat for the president, having lacked support from conservative Republicans, some moderate Republicans and Democrats.

In additional fallout from the jarring setback, Rep. Ted Poe, R-Texas, said he was leaving the caucus. Poe tweeted Friday that some lawmakers "would've voted against the 10 Commandments."

"We must come together to find solutions to move this country forward," Poe said Sunday in a written statement. "Saying 'no' is easy, leading is hard but that is what we were elected to do."

On Sunday, Trump aides made clear that the president could seek support from moderate Democrats on upcoming legislative battles ranging from the budget and tax cuts to health care, leaving open the possibility he could revisit health care legislation. Whether he would work to repair Obama's law was a big question.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: 'No apparent reason' for shooting on Vegas Strip bus

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A man sitting at the back of a public bus on the Las Vegas Strip opened fire "for no apparent reason" as passengers got off at a stop in the heart of the tourism corridor, police said Sunday. Gary Breitling, 57, of Sidney, Montana, was shot and killed Saturday before the gunman barricaded himself in the vehicle, shutting down the Strip for hours, the Clark County coroner's office said. He died at a hospital. Rolando Cardenas, 55, has been accused in the shooting, and he surrendered peacefully after a standoff inside the double-decker bus that lasted more than four hours, police said. He was booked into jail on suspicion of murder, attempted murder, burglary and opening fire on the bus.

Teens wearing leggings barred from United flight

DENVER (AP)—Two teenage girls were barred by a gate agent from boarding a United Airlines flight from Denver to Minneapolis on Sunday because they were wearing leggings, according to a spokesman for the airline. The girls, whose ages were not specified, were not allowed onto the morning flight because they were traveling under an employee travel pass that includes a dress code, United spokesman Jonathan Guerin said. The dress code bars pass travelers from wearing spandex or Lycra pants such as leggings. The teenagers agreed to change their clothing and take a later flight, Guerin said, but the airline's actions sparked a quick backlash on Twitter. Regularly ticketed passengers are not subject to the same dress code and can wear leggings, Guerin said. But the airline was standing by its policy for pass travelers because they are essentially representing the company, he said.

Officer quits to avoid firing after shooting of unarmed teen

NEW YORK (AP)—A white police officer who fatally shot an unarmed black teenager resigned Sunday from the New York Police Department to avoid being fired following a disciplinary trial in a case that sparked outrage over police use of deadly force against black men and boys. Richard Haste was brought on departmental charges for demonstrating "poor judgment." He was accused of not taking obvious steps to defuse a fatal standoff that ended in the 2012 death of Ramarley Graham inside the teen's own bathroom, as his grandmother and little brother looked on in horror. Administrative Judge Rosemarie Maldonado found on Friday that Haste should be fired from the department.

Asia

S. Korea prosecutors push to arrest ex-leader over scandal

AP

In this March, 25, 2017 file photo, a protester wearing a mask of ousted South Korean President Park Geun-hye attends a rally calling for her arrest in Seoul, South Korea.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean prosecutors said Monday that they want a court to issue a warrant to arrest former President Park Geun-hye on corruption allegations.

The announcement came about one week after prosecutors grilled Park for 14 hours over suspicions that she colluded with a jailed confidante to extort from companies and committed other wrongdoing.

The Seoul Central District Court had no immediate comment. The court is expected to bring in Park for questioning before it determines whether to issue the arrest warrant.

The arrest is the next step before Park can be formally charged with crimes such as extortion, bribery and abuse of power. A bribery conviction alone is punishable by up to a life sentence in South Korea.

While in office, Park had presidential immunity from prosecution, though her confidante Choi Soon-sil, many of her top government officials and Samsung scion Lee Jae-yong have already been arrested or indicted over the scandal.

Prosecutors accuse Park of conspiring with Choi and one of a top presidential adviser to pressure 16 business groups, including Samsung, to donate 77.4 billion won ($69 million) to two nonprofits that Choi controlled and used for personal profit. The companies told investigators that they couldn't refuse because they feared business disadvantages such as state tax investigations.

Prosecutors also believe the money Samsung gave Choi could qualify as bribes provided to Park.

Park has denied any legal wrongdoing. She apologized for putting trust in Choi, but said she only let her edit some of her presidential speeches and provide the president with some "public relations" help.

The opposition-controlled parliament in December impeached Park over the allegations and suspended her presidential powers and responsibilities before the Constitutional Court ruled on March 10 to dismiss her for the top post.

Park's allegations plunged the country into political turmoil, with both Park's opponents and supporters staging massive street rallies. Three of Park's supporters, mostly elderly conservative citizens, died during clashes with the police after the March 10 court ruling.

ASIAN BRIEFS

4 dead, 23 wounded in grenade attack in southern Philippines

JOLO, Philippines (AP)—At least four people were killed and 23 others wounded in a grenade attack in the southern Philippines that appears to be unrelated to terrorism, officials said Sunday. Army Col. Cirilito Sobejana said the attacker was arrested following the late Saturday grenade blast in Busbus village near the domestic airport in Sulu province's Jolo town. The motive for the attack wasn't immediately clear, but a military officer said the attacker, who was identified by police as Sedimar Rabbah, returned to the area to retaliate after being beaten by a group of men who accused him of stealing a cellphone. Police, however, were checking if he has links with Abu Sayyaf militants.

2 militants killed in Bangladesh raid; death toll now 8

NEW DELHI (AP)—Two suspected militants were killed Sunday in an ongoing military raid on a building where armed militants were holed up in eastern Bangladesh, police and army officials said. Six people, including two policemen, were killed in explosions near that building a day earlier. Brig. Gen. Mohammad Fakhrul Ahsan told reporters that the government operations were not yet over and that one or more militants were still inside the building Sunday evening. Army and paramilitary troops have been trying since Friday to flush out Islamist radicals who have holed up in a building in the city of Sylhet with a large cache of ammunition. The six people killed Saturday died after a series of explosions took place on a road near an Islamic religious school and close to the building under siege. At least 25 people have been wounded in the attacks and 78 civilians have been rescued from the building after troops broke a section of the compound wall where the building is located.

8 students feared dead in Japan avalanche

TOKYO (AP)—Eight Japanese high school students are feared dead after being caught in an avalanche Monday during a mountain climbing outing at a ski resort, authorities and media said. The avalanche occurred about 9:20 a.m. in the town of Nasu in Tochigi prefecture, about 190 kilometers (120 miles) north of Tokyo. The Fire and Disaster Management Agency said eight people were found with no vital signs. Japanese media identified them as students, and said they were among more than 60 students and instructors from seven high schools who were on the slopes. The ski season had ended at the resort. The disaster agency said many others were injured in the avalanche. Rescue operations continued into the afternoon.

Dozens arrested in Kyrgyzstan protest over jailed dissident

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (AP)—Supporters of a jailed former lawmaker tried to break through a police cordon outside the national security agency's headquarters in Kyrgyzstan's capital, but police turned them back with flash grenades. Dozens were arrested. About 250 people had gathered Saturday in Bishkek, the Central Asian nation's capital, to demand the release of Sadyr Jarapov, who was arrested when trying to enter the country earlier in the day. It was not clear why he was arrested. Japarov had lived the past few years in Cyprus after serving a prison sentence for organizing a 2013 protest that turned violent. The protest was connected to disputes over the Canadian-owned Kumtor gold mine that is one of the country's main industries. Police spokesman Bakyt Seitov said more than 30 people were arrested Saturday, the Interfax news agency reported.

Pakistan to build fence along disputed Afghan border

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan says it has started building a fence along the Afghan border in areas where it says militants have launched cross-border attacks, a move that could worsen tensions with Afghanistan, which has never accepted the colonial-era frontier. Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa, the head of Pakistan's armed forces, announced the construction of fencing in "high threat zones" Saturday during a visit to tribal regions along the border, saying it was in the interest of both countries. The two countries share a 2,400-kilometer (1,500-mile) internationally recognized border known as the Durand Line, which was drawn in the 19th century, when the British dominated South Asia.

Corroded South Korean ferry loaded onto transport vessel

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Salvage crews towed a corroded 6,800-ton South Korean ferry and loaded it onto a semi-submersible transport vessel Saturday, completing what was seen as the most difficult part of the massive effort to bring the ship back to shore nearly three years after it sank. Government officials say it will take a week or two to bring the vessel to a port 90 kilometers (55 miles) away so investigators can search for the remains of nine missing people who were among the 304 who died when the Sewol capsized on April 16, 2014. Most of the victims were students on a high school trip, touching off an outpouring of national grief and soul searching about long-ignored public safety and regulatory failures. Public outrage over what was seen as a botched rescue job by the government contributed to the recent ouster of Park Geun-hye as president. «We just got over one hump ... we are trying hard to stay calm,» Lee Geum-hee, the mother of a missing schoolgirl, told a television crew. Bringing the Sewol back to the port in Mokpo would be a step toward finding closure to one of South Korea›s deadliest disasters. Once the ferry reaches land, government officials say it will take about a month for the ship to be cleaned and evaluated for safety.

World

Nationwide rallies bring out thousands to Russia's streets

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia's opposition, often written off by critics as a small and irrelevant coterie of privileged urbanites, put on an impressive nationwide show of strength Sunday with dozens of protest across the vast country. Hundreds were arrested, including Alexei Navalny, the anti-corruption campaigner who is President Vladimir Putin's most prominent critic.

It was the biggest show of defiance since a 2011-2012 wave of demonstrations rattled the Kremlin and led to harsh new laws aimed at suppressing dissent. Almost all of Sunday's rallies were unsanctioned, but thousands braved the prospect of arrest to gather in cities from the Far East port of Vladivostok to the "window on the West" of St. Petersburg.

An organization that monitors Russian political repression, OVD-Info, said it counted more than 800 people arrested in the Moscow demonstrations alone. That number could not be confirmed and state news agency Tass cited Moscow police as saying there were about 500 arrests.

Navalny, who was arrested while walking from a nearby subway station to the demonstration at Moscow's iconic Pushkin Square, was the driving force of the demonstrations. He called for them after his Foundation for Fighting Corruption released a report contending that Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev has amassed a collection of mansions, yachts and vineyards.

Navalny is a persistent thorn in the Kremlin's side. He has served several short jail terms after arrests in previous protests and has twice been convicted in a fraud case, but given a suspended sentence. Even though the conviction technically disqualifies him, he intends to run for president in 2018—an election in which Putin is widely expected to run for another term. Putin has dominated Russian political life, as president or prime minister, since 2000.

No overall figures on arrests or protest attendance were available. Some Russian state news media gave relatively cursory reports on the demonstrations, while the state news TV channel Rossiya-24 ignored them altogether in evening broadcasts.

The U.S. government condemned the arrest of Navalny and of peaceful protesters, calling for their immediate release. "The Russian people, like people everywhere, deserve a government that supports an open marketplace of ideas, transparent and accountable governance, equal treatment under the law, and the ability to exercise their rights without fear of retribution," State Department spokesman Mark Toner said in a statement.

Police estimated the Moscow crowd at about 7,000, but it could have been larger. The one-hectare (2.5-acre) Pushkin Square was densely crowded as were sidewalks on adjacent Tverskaya Street.

In St. Petersburg, about 5,000 protesters assembled in the Mars Field park, shouting slogans including "Putin resign!" and "Down with the thieves in the Kremlin!"

Russia's beleaguered opposition is often seen as primarily a phenomenon of a Westernized urban elite, but Sunday's protests included gatherings in places far from cosmopolitan centers, such as Siberia's Chita and Barnaul.

"Navalny has united people who think the same; that people don't agree with the authorities is obvious from what is going on in the country today," Anna Ivanova, 19, said at the Moscow demonstration. "I am a bit scared."

Scuffles with police erupted sporadically and the arrested demonstrators included a gray-haired man whom police dragged along the pavement. Police cleared the square after about three hours and began herding demonstrators down side streets.

"It's scary, but if everyone is afraid, no one would come out onto the streets," 19-year-old protester Yana Aksyonova said.

The luxuries amassed by Medvedev include a house for raising ducks, so many placards in Sunday's protests featured mocking images of yellow duck toys. Some demonstrators carried running shoes—a reference to Navalny's assertion that tracking shipments of running shoes for Medvedev helped reveal his real-estate portfolio. Others showed up with their faces painted green, a reminder of a recent attack on Navalny in which an assailant threw a green antiseptic liquid onto his face.

"People are unhappy with the fact that there's been no investigation" of the corruption allegations, said Moscow protester Ivan Gronstein.

AP

Protesters gather at Marsivo Field in St. Petersburg, Russia, Sunday, March 26, 2017.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

†Vicente Matagolai Aldan

Born to Life: March 01, 1943 • Called to Eternal life: March 19, 2017

In his new life, he now joins his:

Father:	†Jose Castro Aldan
Mother:	†Rita Matagolai Aldan
Father In law:	†Calixto M. Reyes
Mother In law:	†Florentina C. Legaspi
Siblings:	†Victoria Aldan Dela Cruz
	†Ignatio Matagolai Aldan
	†Remedio Aldan Villagomez
	†Dolores Aldan Lizama
	†Alfred Matagolai Aldan
	†Josepha Matagolai Aldan
Grandchildren:	†Kirk C. Leon Guerrero
	†Judy Ann Aldan Palacios

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Wife: **Estelita R. Aldan**

Children and their families:
- **Velma D. Aldan**, Children and Grandchildren
- **Rita A.** & Vicente Santos, Children and Grandchildren
- **Joseph D.** & Lucretia T. Aldan, Children and Grandchildren
- **James D.** & Rufina T. Aldan and Children
- **Sean D.** & Cindy V. Aldan and Children
- **Antonette D.** & Troy M. Palacios, Children and Grandchildren
- **Sophia D.** Aldan & Petros Taisague and Children
- **Veronica D.** Aldan & Joseph J. Ojeda and Children

Brothers, Sisters and In law:
†Victoria A. & †Jose Dela Cruz & Children
†Ignacio M. & †Felecita R. Aldan & Children
†Remedio A. & †Joaquin T. Villagomez & Children
†Dolores A. & Manuel SN. Lizama & Children
Merced A. & †Alfred Earl Hockett & Children
†Alfred M. & Miriam Aldan & Children
Maria A. & †Mariano C. Deleon Guerrero & Children
Juan M. & Maria T. Aldan & Children
Ramon M. & Francisca B. Aldan & Children

Reared Children:
- Charlie D. & Dolores C. Leon Guerrero, Children and Grandchildren
- Nicolas D. & Jackie C. Leon Guerrero, Children and Grandchildren
- Christopher D. & Frances P. Leon Guerrero, Children and Grandchildren
- Lillian C. Leon Guerrero
- Benwachi Taisacan
- Randy Rosario & Children
- Sonny Rosario
- Rex Rosario & Children
- Neil Matthew H. & Emiliana Agulto
- Viba H. Agulto & Patrick Navarro
- Emi H. Agulto & Felix Hofschneider
- Jessie H. & Jaime Agulto
- Neil Claithon Agulto & Rose Leon Guerrero
- Mel Rosa & Joe Rebuenog

He will also be greatly missed by his God-children, numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions for the repose of his soul is being celebrated each evening at St. Jude Church at 6:00 pm followed by Holy Rosary.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, March 30, 2017.
His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30 am to St Jude Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am followed by Interment service at Mt. Carmel Cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest.
Please join us in prayers,

Thank you - Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Estelita R. Aldan, Children and Families

Overdrive

When is the best time to buy a car?

By TARA BAUKUS MELLO
BANKRATE.COM

For many people, the process of buying a new car begins with the thinking that maybe "it's time" versus being forced into buying a new car because of mechanical problems, a car accident or some other event. If you have the luxury of timing your car-buying decision, then there are numerous ways to decide when it's the right time.

WEEKDAY VS. WEEKEND

In general, you'll get a better deal if you buy a car on a weekday as opposed to the weekend. You are also more likely to get a better deal if you buy toward the end of the month because dealers are more likely to be squeezing in a few more sales for their monthly totals to close out the month.

One important caveat about this timing, however, is that the auto sales cycle sometimes ends a few days into the next calendar month, making the first of the month just as good as the last day of the month.

If you can wait a long time—potentially months—then there are a few things you can look at. If you can wait a while and the latest technology is important to you, then you'll want to make sure you buy a model that is brand-new or thoroughly redesigned for the current model year. And buying as soon as the current model year of that car goes on sale—which is usually in late summer or early fall—will give you more time to take advantage of having the latest technology.

WHEN NEW MODELS ARRIVE

If saving money is important to you and you can wait, then you might consider buying a car that's the previous model year (when it is on closeout). That occurs when the new model year is fully arriving on dealers' lots and dealers are eager to clear space to make room for the new models.

If this is your reference, then fall is the best time of year for you; if you wait until winter, it will likely be too late on most models.

Regardless of your situation, the best time to buy a car is before you actually need one.

Need help organizing your car?

By MARK PHELAN
DETROIT FREE PRESS

If you're the sort of person whose socks are all folded in a drawer—or even better, if you can never find a pair that match—here are some simple tips to that might make it easier for you to find things in your car.

■ **Know your zones.**

Figure out what you need quick access to, especially anything you might need while the vehicle is moving. Parking passes, sunglasses, etc. They belong nearby, where you can reach them without moving yourself. Even the glove box is too far to reach and too hard to see in a moving vehicle. T

■ **Size matters.**

Put little objects in small cubbies, where they'll be easy to find and won't roll out of reach. A plastic tray can keep pens, etc., together in the glove box or center console.

The container store is your friend. A few bins and boxes can keep your trunk organized and make everything easy to find.

■ Lock it up. Many vehicles have closed or lockable compartments. Put valuables there, to keep them out of view. Anything that makes your vehicle a less attractive target for thieves increases the likelihood they'll move on.

MOTORMOUTH

Key fob, electronics drain car batteries

By BOB WEBER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Q: I recently heard that batteries are the most frequently replaced component in cars that are 3 years old. Any idea what might be the cause here? Might this have anything to do with the proliferation of automatic start-stop systems to save fuel? Or the "vampire" effect of trickle-powering electronics to preserve settings, etc.? Or are automakers just using cheaper batteries?—J.G., Chicago

A: Carmakers would not benefit from installing crappy batteries. More likely, batteries are not getting adequately charged when driving. The vampire effect from infotainment and other power hogs contribute to key-off drains. This is particularly an issue when drivers leave their remote keyless entry fob in the car. Plus, telemetry during down time (electronic control module updates, maintenance data, etc.) taps power and is most harmful to already-undercharged batteries. A battery that is chronically undercharged will develop a condition called acid stratification where stronger acid settles to the bottom with weaker acid near the top. It shortens the battery's life.

Q: Saw something for the first time in all my years of driving that you may have seen yourself. It happened one evening on an area toll road when a pickup truck about 300 yards from an open road toll booth turned on some very, very bright LED lights that were around his rear license plate. He drove through the toll, then turned them off after a couple of hundred yards. Is he trying to blind the license plate camera from reading his?—L.K., Chicago

A: A spokesman for the Illinois State Police confirmed your suspicion. People use numerous ploys to avoid paying tolls. Some work, some don't. If the pickup driver is caught, he will be charged with improper license plate illumination, toll avoidance and confiscation of the LED lights. Paying the toll is cheaper than paying the fine.

Q: The headlights on my Jeep Liberty click on and then click off while driving. It is very scary, as the roads in Florida are quite dark. I took the Jeep to the dealer and they kept it for two days, but couldn't find a problem or see it happen. A private mechanic had it for three days and said he couldn't find anything either. This is driving me crazy. Can you give me any promising advice?—S.F., Del Ray Beach, Fla.

A: Do the people at either of these shops work the midnight shift? Someone needs to test-drive the vehicle under the conditions in which the problem occurs.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

†John Peter Duenas Del Rosario

"Chief / JD"

Born to Life: April 08, 1979
Born into Eternal Life: Saturday, March 25, 2017

In his new life, he now joins his:
Paternal Grandparents: †Juan Del Rosario, †Francisco A. Manahane and †Magdalena S. Manahane
Maternal Grandparents: †Pedro P. Duenas (PDD) and †Lucia A. Duenas
Father: †Herbert Sablan Del Rosario

His memory will forever live in the hearts of his **Mother, Rose Duenas Del Rosario (PDD)**, **Common-law Wife, Darrah Lacapa Benavente**, **Daughter, Aidin Benavente Tagabuel**.

Brothers and Sisters:
- Dorsha Jane D./Eduardo Jr. Guinto (Brandon, Donovan, Colton, Edward Jr, and Aryana)
- Tricia Rose D. Del Rosario/Joseph Reyes Jr. (Elerie Rose, Elicia Jo, and Joseph Herbert)
- Tracy Lynn D. Del Rosario
- Herman Herbert D. Del Rosario Jr.
- Trianna Jamae D. Del Rosario
- (Reared Brother) Wilber (PJ) Ngotel/Desiree Valdez (Leilani)

Parents In-Law: Roman and Andrea Benavente

Brothers and Sisters In-Law:
- Linoa Benavente
- Jeremiah/Eun Benavente and Family
- David/Chinnelle Benavente and Family
- Annrita/Jovano and Family

He will also be greatly missed by his numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

Daily Eucharistic Celebration are being celebrated for the repose of his soul at San Antonio Church each evening at 6:00 pm followed by Holy Rosary.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, April 01, 2017. His remains will lay in state at Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel beginning at 8:30 am.

At 11:30 am, his remains will be escorted to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral for Responso Service and Holy Rosary.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 2:00 pm followed by Interment services at Mt. Carmel Cemetery where he will be laid at a peaceful rest.

It's hard to imagine a world without John Peter Duenas Del Rosario (known to many as "Chief" or "JD").

Chief was a gentle giant of a man who cared deeply for his parents and siblings. He was a devoted husband and father, loving Darrah and Aiden (Junie Bug) with a love both fierce and protective. He was a law enforcement professional who understood the importance of justice, of right and wrong.

We are better for having known him, and must now learn to fill the void left in his absence. Thanks be to God for the gifts we have received in Chief. Thanks be to God for a life lived with courage and honesty, strength and love.

Adios, Chief. Puedi I taihinekkok na mina'lak I Saina un inina para siempre.

Please join us in prayers,
Thank you – Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Rose Duenas Del Rosario, Darrah Lacapa Benavente and Family

Life & Style

IPI's 'Earn & Learn' program produces 1st batch

A step closer to fulfilling their dreams.

Three residents are the successful cohorts of the Local Internship Program of Imperial Pacific International - Learning and Development Department, which is implemented in partnership with the Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

This pioneering internship initiative was established to facilitate the growing demand for highly skilled-and-trained workers in the CNMI.

As a program course, it was designed for IPI's Learning and Development Department to provide students the opportunity to consolidate and apply their learning in a meaningful and relevant on-the-job experience.

The course also focused on structured learning, and the opportunity to complete a 240-hour comprehensive internship—both essential and critical in completing the course requirements.

Also known as the "Earn & Learn Partnership Program," Imperial Pacific also provides stipends to the interns as way of valuing their work.

These cohorts have completed internship in hotel operations, sales and marketing, housekeeping and food and beverage departments of Imperial Pacific International.

Upon their completion, on Thursday the three successful pioneers—Charing Reyes, Evalyn Lizama and Leila Hicking—were immediately offered dream jobs.

"This is a great program for our company and also for the community. We provide opportunities for students to experience what business is like in the real world," said IPI's senior vice president of hotel operations Jerry Miao. "Not only do we want to provide the skills for them to be able to deliver meaningful service to the community, but also, we want to make sure it impacts their lives in a positive way."

Jerry Young, director of Learning & Development of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC, noted how the internship program capitalizes on building the local workforce.

"This internship is a 'learn and earn partnership'" Young said. "While they are doing their internship work, they earn money and at the same time, they learn skills and knowledge from the opportunities that are available to them and apply what they have learned from the experience. So, it is a win-win opportunity."

Imperial Pacific International Local Internship Program celebrates the success of its first batch of local interns. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IPI's vice president of Group Human Resources Cathy Lei said the program was designed to engage young adults.

"This is a great chance for us to engage with the young adults in the community and show them the different positions we have to offer. With this internship program, you are guaranteed a spot and you will receive the same type of training that you would if you were an actual employee of the company," Lei said. "This is a good way to get your foot in the door."

Jumpstarting the future

For the interns, IPI's Local Internship Program was the much-needed link to jumpstart their dream careers.

On Thursday, the journey began for the three. They were honored and recognized in a ceremony as the first batch of cohorts that have successfully completed the comprehensive Local Internship Program of Imperial Pacific International-al's Learning and Development Department.

"I really had fun and I highly recommend this program to others," said Reyes, who ultimately got a job with the casino food and beverage department of Imperial Pacific.

Reyes highlighted how the program helped her become self-sufficient as a single parent. "The program helped me in many ways. [Through this program] I don't have to depend on my parents at all. I can get my children what they need…and I also can contribute to the household."

The program, she added, taught her to be more responsible.

"My family trusts me now because they see that I am responsible. I'm so glad I got hired and I plan to be here long-term. I love where I'm working. I thank you for this opportunity," added Reyes.

She is eager to grow and learn within Imperial Pacific. "I hope to venture into the other departments within the company to familiarize myself with the different work environments. I am really excited to start in the new casino."

Lizama is about to embark on her dream career. The program opened up opportunities she thought were beyond her reach.

"I got to witness firsthand how challenging and rewarding it could be to work in the hospitality industry. This internship really helped me not just financially but also it taught me a lot," she said.

As a mother of two, Lizama said she now can provide for the needs of her children.

"I'm a mother of two and I can now give my kids what they want because I make my own money. I'd like to thank IPI…for really pushing us, for welcoming me and respecting me, not just as an intern but an actual employee," Lizama said.

For Hicking, the program made her a better person.

"I learned more than I thought I could ever learn. I'm not really a proactive person, but this internship really taught me to get up and start helping my household," she said. " I don't have any kids but I do have parents and relatives that need help and thought I should start doing something about it."

Hicking also acknowledged NMTI for introducing her to Imperial Pacific's Local Internship Program. "They helped to get me here and this internship taught me a lot. I realized that I am able to do more than I expected I could do," said Hicking. "I would like to thank IPI, especially the supervisors that watched over us for the past few months. They've been very patient with teaching us and helping us learn step by step."

Leila Hicking is happy to receive her certificate of completion of IPI Local Internship Program. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Evalyn Lizama is all smiles after receiving her certificate of completion. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Charing Reyes is excited to start working for the company as a full-time employee in the casino's F&B department. In this photo, she is joined by, right to left, senior vice president of Hotel Operations Jerry Miao and assistant vice president of Hospitality & Affairs Lucy Guo. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Senior vice president of Hotel Operations Jerry Miao shares a few words of wisdom with the successful interns. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Experiential learning

The Local Internship Program will continue to help residents pursue their dream careers, through the opportunity to experience new set of skills needed in today's competitive job market.

"They are given the opportunity to gain experience from different departments and if they're unsure about what they're really interested in, this program can help them figure that out. From there, we develop the skills that are necessary to perform successfully in that department. We ensure they're placed in positions that cater to their talents and preferences," said Lucy Guo, IPI's vice president of Hospitality and Affairs.

IPI's vice president of Hotel Operations Eddy Ram explained how the program was uniquely designed.

"Most Interns come in when a hotel is already operational. Our first set of interns had the chance to actually be involved in the pre-opening period to see how the hotel is being set up," Ram said.

IPI's Sales and Marketing director Yun Hee Yi shared her experience in working directly with the local interns. "Providing them with this opportunity was great because the company is fairly new and they got to experience some of the things that a new company goes through." (***PR***)

IT&E honors CNMI Women's Month

In observance of CNMI Women's Month, IT&E is proud to recognize the significant contributions of all CNMI women and their continued success. IT&E is a proud partner of this year's 4th Annual Women's Summit, providing internet services and in-kind donations to the 1st Commonwealth Women's Association Gala.

"Empowering women as leaders of change is crucial to the ever-changing needs of society. As a telecommunications company, women have shaped the way we connect and advance in our communities. In the past and even today, they continue to be the backbone of our success and foundation of our growth in society," said John Compton, IT&E chief operating officer.

Compton said that the growth and strength of telecommunications in the CNMI is the product of the economic, educational, political, and social achievements of all women and society.

IT&E general manager Rose Soledad added that with women at the helm in engineering, marketing, human resources, sales and accounting, the company values and supports empowering women as leaders of change.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IT&E chief operating officer John Compton, left, along with Sales & Marketing manager Hans Mickelson, far right, and Customer Service manager Janice Tenorio present to the Commonwealth Women's Association a donation of $1,000 in cash and in-kind donations for CNMI Women's Month.

"Telecommunications is ever-changing and with ongoing improvements to our fiber optic network, our team continues to expand our wireless services. We want to reaffirm our commitment to the continued progress and prosperity of the CNMI and the significance of the women who've made this possible," she said. ***(PR)***

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Antonio Banderas says he's recovered from a heart attack

MADRID (AP)—Spanish film star Antonio Banderas says he has recovered from a heart attack that he had in January. The 56-year-old Banderas tells Spanish media that "I suffered a heart attack on Jan. 26, but it wasn't serious and hasn't caused any damage." Banderas says he underwent a procedure to place three stents in his arteries, adding that "it hasn't been as dramatic as some have written." Banderas' visit to a Swiss clinic had led to speculation about the health of the star known for roles in such films as "The Mask of Zorro," ''Desperado," ''Philadelphia" and the animated "Puss in Boots." Banderas spoke Saturday at a film festival in his hometown of Malaga in southern Spain, where he received a lifetime achievement award for his career as an actor, director and producer.

Actress, producer-writer of 'Orange Is The New Black' marry

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (AP)—An actress and producer-writer from "Orange Is The New Black" have married. Actress Samira Wiley, who plays the character Poussey Washington on the Netflix show, and Lauren Morelli wedded Saturday in Palm Springs, where they were engaged. Publicist Scott Boute says both women wore gowns designed by Christian Siriano. Wiley, 29, will also appear in the upcoming series "The Handmaid's Tale," based on the 1985 novel by Canadian author Margaret Atwood that depicts New England under a totalitarian theocracy. Morelli, 34, has worked as a writer, story editor and producer of "Orange Is The New Black," which depicts life inside a women's prison, since 2014.

Barry Manilow joins concert to help human rights groups

NEW YORK (AP)—Barry Manilow is adding his legendary voice to a concert series in New York City that raises money for human rights organizations. The Grammy-winning singer of songs such as "Mandy," ''I Write the Songs" and "Looks Like We Made It" will appear at the next monthly "Concert for America: Stand Up, Sing Out!" on April 18 at The Town Hall. It also will be streamed live on Facebook. Manilow will join other performers and presenters including Vanessa Williams, Michael Urie, Lisa Lampanelli, LaChanze and Andy Cohen. Proceeds will benefit the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Southern Poverty Law Center, National Immigration Law Center and the Sierra Club Foundation. Tickets range from $30 to $250. The monthly series is the brainchild of Seth Rudetsky and James Wesley.

'Beauty and the Beast' dances off with top box-office spot

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Not all reboots are created equal. This weekend at the box office, nostalgia-driven fare was everywhere, from "Beauty and the Beast" to "Power Rangers" and "CHIPS," producing both successful and underwhelming results. On the high end, Disney's live-action "Beauty and the Beast" continued enchanting audiences in its second weekend in theaters, easily topping the charts with $88.3 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. On the low end, Warner Bros.' raunchy, R-rated "CHIPS" debuted in seventh place with $7.6 million. In the middle was Lionsgate's "Power Rangers," which earned a solid $40.5 million to grab the No. 2 spot. The PG-13 take on the campy 1990s television show tells the origin story of the Power Rangers with a diverse teenage cast of relative newcomers.

Mom visiting dad in Mexico should leave baby at home

DEAR ABBY: My 21-year-old daughter has a 6-month-old child. The father is a 36-year-old man who was recently deported to Mexico. He continues to contact her and wants her to travel to Mexico to visit him. I am terrified of all the things that could happen to her if she goes.

I don't trust him. I keep thinking, will he try to keep the baby? Will he try to keep them both or entice her to do something illegal? (He had an earlier felony conviction.) Am I overreacting? How can I get her to recognize that these types of things happen all the time?

MOTHER IN ILLINOIS

DEAR MOTHER: The most important thing you can do right now is calm down. Your daughter is an adult, and you need to treat her like one. You are within your rights to express your concern, but if she wants to go, you cannot stop her.

If I were her mother, I'd approach it this way: Offer to take care of your grandchild while she visits the baby's daddy. That way she can get a look at how he's living and what he is doing. Suggest she take lots of photos with her. But unless she is absolutely sure that the environment is safe for her child, the little one should stay north of the border.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend's friend "Keira" moved back here to help take care of his mom. He has known her for more than 10 years. They didn't have an intimate relationship; it was more of a friendship than anything. He's very loving toward me and treats me like gold. The problem I've been having is, he doesn't understand how some things bother me.

For instance, when the three of us went to dinner, they were sharing food by feeding each other. I'm sure people probably thought they were a couple. When I asked him why he didn't put some food on a plate and give it to her, he didn't have an answer. Also, they watch TV in bed together. He thinks these are normal "friend things" to do.

I'm not a jealous person, but I have my limits. We don't live close, so we see each other only a few times a week. Keira doesn't pay anything to live there. He said she has nowhere to go, and it was his agreement with her that if she came home with him she would always have a place to stay.

I like her, but sometimes feel like I'm dating both of them. He's clueless. They are dependent on each other. She fixes things around the house, and he lets her borrow his car for work. Am I just being petty?

THIRD WHEEL IN THE EAST

DEAR THIRD WHEEL: Forgive me if this seems negative, but your boyfriend's primary relationship seems to be with the girl who is living with him 24/7 and watching television in his bed rather than with you.

Step back and look at it rationally: Keira's living with him, taking care of the house and his mother, spending time in his bed, hand-feeding him, and the few times a week you see him, she's coming along. He may treat you like gold, but it looks more like fool's gold to me.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

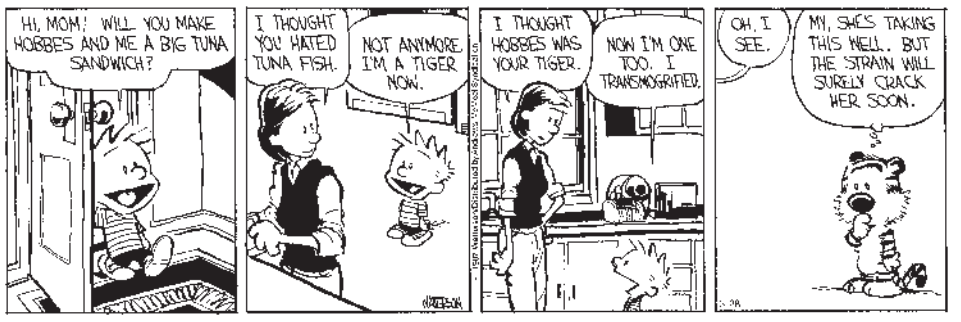
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HI, MOM! WILL YOU MAKE HOBBES AND ME A BIG TUNA SANDWICH?
I THOUGHT YOU HATED TUNA FISH.
NOT ANYMORE. I'M A TIGER NOW.
I THOUGHT HOBBES WAS YOUR TIGER.
NOW I'M ONE TOO. I TRANSMOGRIFIED.
OH, I SEE.
MY, SHE'S TAKING THIS WELL. BUT THE STRAIN WILL SURELY CRACK HER SOON.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I'M FEELING LAZY, SO WE'RE HAVING CEREAL FOR LUNCH
WORKS FOR ME
CEREAL IS THE PERFECT FOOD...GOOD FOR ANY MEAL
AND SNACKS!
IN FACT, LET'S HAVE CEREAL FOR DINNER TONIGHT, TOO
JON MAY HAVE A GIRLFRIEND NOW, BUT WE'RE STILL BACHELORS, BABY!
JIM DAVIS 3-28

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OKAY. THE RUNNING MAN.
THIS IS AN ADVANCED DANCE MOVE, SO IT'S BEST TO STRETCH OUT FIRST.
I START OUT WITH A FEW OF THESE TO LOOSEN THE BACK.
WHY ISN'T MINE CREAKING AND SPROINGING LIKE YOURS?
YOU HAVE TO EARN SPROINGS LIKE THESE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

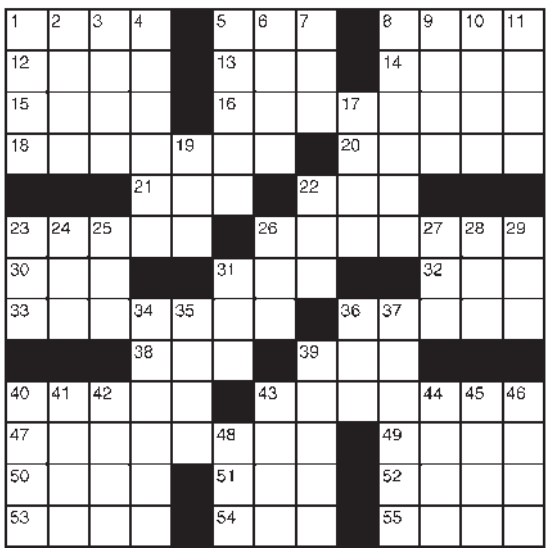
ACROSS
1 Guitarist Clapton
5 Bar bill
8 Israeli airline
12 Russian council
13 Post-op area
14 Arp's art
15 Tide type
16 Stored, as records
18 Large wardrobe
20 Humiliate
21 Gun lobby org.
22 NBC weekend show
23 Insolence
26 Silver colors, in heraldry
30 Chum
31 Kimono closer
32 Tin Man's need
33 Daughter of Minos
36 "Strange as it seems ..."
38 Guitar master Paul
39 "A Chorus Line" song
40 Inventor Nikola
43 Speedy horse
47 Man-made object, British style
49 "Do — others ..."
50 Banner
51 Pi follower
52 Names, in Paris
53 Head, to Henri
54 Gents
55 Leg joint

DOWN
1 Author Ferber
2 Contrite one
3 Mosque VIP
4 "Scarface"
5 Pageant topper
6 Farm fraction
7 Tampa Bay NFLer
8 OK to eat
9 Volcanic flow
10 Citrus drinks
11 Stow cargo
17 Suspend
19 Annoy
22 — Lanka
23 Tax prep pro
24 Guffaw syllable
25 Quarterback Manning
26 Honest politician
27 Affirmative action?
28 Up to
29 Devious
31 Switch settings
34 Claim
35 Hearing-impaired
36 Stop — dime
37 Expose as a myth
39 "What the Butler Saw" playwright
40 Wilson's predecessor
41 Perry's creator
42 Doc's "Now!"
43 Dull pain
44 Privy to
45 "Don't look —!"
46 Proboscis
48 Branch

Solution time: 24 mins.

H	A	C	K		P	O	P		A	H	E	M
A	W	H	O		I	R	A		S	E	R	A
I	R	E	D		G	O	S	L	I	N	G	S
L	Y	R	I	C	S		T	E	A	P	O	T
			A	U	T	O		I	N	E		
T	I	C	K	L	I	S	H		S	C	A	R
A	D	O		P	E	C	O	S		K	A	I
G	A	W	K		S	A	R	G	A	S	S	C
		B	I	N		R	S	T	U			
I	C	E	S	I	N		E	S	P	I	E	D
F	I	L	M	B	U	F	F		A	R	T	E
I	D	L	E		M	O	L		I	M	A	N
T	E	S	T		B	E	Y		R	A	T	S

Yesterday's answer 3-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ariel Winter, 17; Elijah Wood, 34; Sarah McLachlan, 47; Frank Darabont, 56.

Happy Birthday: Put critical thought behind your every move. Don't wait for someone else to set the pace. Show confidence as you master new skills and head in directions that promise satisfaction and benefits that will make you happy. Love should be handled with loyalty and respect. You will have to earn your good reputation. Don't allow anyone to push or pressure you. Your numbers are 6, 13, 22, 27, 35, 41, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19)*: Go where the action is, but don't underestimate the extent of a situation, deal or challenge. Live up to your promises and gauge your time and cost responsibly. Good results will come from hands-on work and emotional stability. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20)*: Rule with your head, not your heart. Don't let your emotions lead you astray or cause you to make poor choices. Stay focused on what you want to accomplish and you will avoid being stuck with responsibilities that don't belong to you. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20)*: You've got more going for you than you realize. Don't settle for less when a little effort will bring great results. Call in favors and you will discover that you have a number of people on hand to help. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22)*: Easy does it. You may offend someone if you are too abrupt or pushy. Step back and view the whole situation and you will find an alternate way to handle whatever you face. Getting along with others will help you reach your goal. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22)*: Engage in activities that allow you to show off. Your lively contributions will attract attention and give you the platform you need to promote what you have to offer. Love and romance should be a priority along with self-improvement. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*: Pump up the volume and get moving. Taking action will let everyone know you mean business. Step away from your normal routine and show your versatility and desire to reach your goals. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)*: Look for a silver lining and you will find it. Having patience and listening to what others have to say will help you respond with compassion and alternative solutions. Working with others will help you get what you want. Love will brighten your day. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*: Don't let anyone leave you hanging. Jump into action and make your presence known. Don't fear change or failure. Your tenacity will drive you to the top. Do things your own way and good fortune will be yours. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)*: Express your thoughts and put your plans into motion. Change will excite you and bring you in contact with people who are as adventurous as you. Don't deny yourself the right to enjoy life. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*: Stick close to home. Problems while traveling can be expected if you try to fit too much into your day. Approach whatever you need to do with discipline and the goal to finish what you start. Avoid people who are a bad influence. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)*: Get in touch with old friends or flames. Walking down memory lane will spark new interest in old dreams. An opportunity to get involved in a joint venture looks promising. Contracts, settlements and agreements can be finalized. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20)*: As long as you are disciplined and willing to look at all angles of whatever situation you face, you will avoid making a mistake. Following through with promises will help you gain respect. A reunion will lead to an unexpected proposal. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are quick-witted, active and adaptable. You are aggressive and accident-prone.

Eugenia's websites -- eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1				8		7		9
	2			9			3	
	9		5	4	1		8	
		7				4		
	5		7	3	2		1	
	4			5			2	
2				6	4			1

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	3	1	8	4	6	9	5	2
2	9	8	5	3	1	4	7	6
5	4	6	2	7	9	8	1	3
3	2	5	1	6	8	7	9	4
4	8	7	9	5	3	2	6	1
6	1	9	4	2	7	3	8	5
9	5	2	6	8	4	1	3	7
1	7	4	3	9	5	6	2	8
8	6	3	7	1	2	5	4	9

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

DISPOSABLE SHAVERS Solution: 6 letters

M	T	B	R	R	U	O	T	N	O	C	L	O	S	E
O	H	S	O	E	T	N	E	I	N	E	V	N	O	C
O	G	E	Z	F	T	D	O	S	M	O	O	T	H	I
R	I	P	A	I	I	A	O	I	L	E	V	A	R	T
G	A	A	R	L	E	L	I	S	S	L	E	E	T	S
R	R	H	G	L	U	C	O	N	C	I	M	D	H	A
O	T	S	D	T	A	A	I	O	I	M	C	A	S	L
W	S	N	I	G	Ⓟ	T	V	M	I	N	R	E	T	P
T	A	O	E	L	Ⓘ	E	H	R	O	P	G	H	R	S
H	N	L	W	D	Ⓡ	Y	T	E	F	N	H	A	I	P
E	S	U	E	L	Ⓖ	N	I	S	R	A	O	A	P	H
N	I	W	T	I	R	E	B	B	U	R	C	G	I	E
D	E	S	E	A	L	E	D	R	A	U	G	I	R	R
S	T	N	U	O	C	R	E	A	M	E	O	L	A	E
L	E	G	S	G	N	I	T	A	C	I	R	B	U	L

©2017 Andrews McMeel www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 3/28

Aloe, Close, Contour, Convenient, Count, Cover, Cream, Edged, Ergonomic, Facial, Gels, Glide, Grip, Groom, Growth, Guard, Hair, Handle, Head, Hygiene, Lather, Legs, Lubricating, Plastic, Precision, Razor, Refill, Retaining, Rubber, Sealed, Shapes, Sharp, Single Use, Smooth, Soap, Solution, Sphere, Steel, Straight, Strip, Travel, Trimmer, Twin, Wet

Yesterday's Answer: Constellation

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 or 47**, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

1 General Maintenance $6.55/hr
3 yrs exp. Green Corporation
yum0821@hotmail.com

1 Scuba Diving Instructor, $6.55 - $7.05/hr. Min 5 years exp. Must speak, write & read Japanese. Certified by PADI. Napori Shoukai Inc. Tel. 235-2320

1-Maintenance Electrician $6.55/hr. w/ 5 yrs. exp.; 1-Building Maintenance Repairer. $6.55/hr. w/ 4 yrs. Exp. Mail resume to Pacific Daiken Co., Ltd., P.O. Box 501042, Saipan MP 96950 or email to eda@pacificdaiken.com

1 Irrigation Technician, 2 yrs experience required $6.55-7.25 per hour. Apply at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort in Kagman III

2 Heavy Equipment Operator, 1 yr experience required, $6.55-7.25 per hour. Apply at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort in Kagman III

1 Commercial Cleaner
1 General Maintenance
3-5 years experience with valid driver's license. Police Clearance required. Email resume to San Vicente Estates at cisco.cnmi@yahoo.com

3-Cook, 2-Maintenance, 2-Beautician with at least 2 years experience. Interested applicants call Susan S. Castro at 287-5961.

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

SALES REPRESENTATIVE - HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

A minimum of 3 years work related experience required with a successful, proven sales record. Ideally with an Associate's Degree in Sales & Marketing or related field with experience in F&B, menu preparation & costing. Must be able to lift 50lbs. Ideally would have understanding of wine distribution. Makes outside sales calls to established customers and cold calls to potential customers. Coordinates deliveries. Researches potential products from experience, menu content or health requirements. Proficient in MS Excel, Word, Outlook. Ability to speak Mandarin, Cantonese, Japanese or Korean an advantage. Must have a valid driver's license. Availability to work evenings, holidays and weekends is also required.

Interested applicants must have their own reliable transportation. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

ACCOUNTANT

BA in Accounting and a minimum of 3 years experience is required, including preparation of financial statements, processing accounts receivables & payables and other general accounting procedures. Must possess work-related skills, have knowledge & experience in purchasing, inventory control and bank reconciliation. Proficient in various computer software: MS Excel, Word, Outlook and SAGE or similar accounting system. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Interested applicants may submit an application and/or resume at our Saipan office located in the C.T.S.I. building, Lower Base, by April 7, 2017. Applications may also be sent to: mpk@dandq-international.com. The successful applicant will be required to provide a police clearance.

D&Q is an equal opportunity employer and has a drug free work environment. Pre-employment and random drug testing may be required.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(5) Screen Printer – Atleast 2 yrs. experience. Knowledge in screen printing equipment & machines. Able to work flexible hours.

(1) Graphic Artist – Bachelors Degree in Fine Arts. Minimum of 5 yrs. experience as Graphic Artist. Proficient in Illustrator/Photoshop CS5.

(2) Maintenance – Atleast high school graduate . A valid driver's license. Ability to use efficiently various power and hand tools. Knows how to follow oral written instructions and can communicate efficiently and fluently in both witten and oral form.

(1) Accounting Clerk – Atleast 2 yrs. experience. Proficient in various computer software, such as MS Excel, Word, Peach Tree & other Accounting Softwares.

(2) Auto Mechanic – Must have atleast 2 yrs. work related experience. Excellent diagnostic/ repair skills of vehicle systems. High self motivation.

(5) Trash Collector – Atleast High School graduate. With valid driver's license. Needs to be physically fit and willing to work flexible time and must be hardworking.

(1) Househelper – Knowledge in cooking Chinese,Japanese, Thai, Cuisine is a must. Experienced in household chores like cleaning, ironing, gardening, paying bills, and baby sitting. With valid driver's license.

(1) Garbage Collector Supervisor – Experienced in supervising and coordinating activities of workers engaged in collecting garbage and other refuse and transporting to disposal plants or areas. With valid driving license. Hardworking and trustworthy. Willing to work flexible time.

Submit Applications To:
PAM PACIFIC ENTERPRISES CORP. Tel. # (670)235-7270

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
DIPOTO CO.

(1) General Manager
(Photographer)
10 years experience with an average skills in Computer Design

(3) Photographers
3 years experience in photo shooting and design

Able to speak/understand Korean and Japanese language.

Salary commensurable to experience.

Please send resume to
P.O. Box 506448 or
email to dipoto@naver.com

Francisco C. Cabrera
dba Design Florist/Cabrera Funeral

Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Flower Arranger
- Must have at least 3 years experience.
- Able to work flexible hours.

All interested applicant must apply in person.
Cabrera Center Bldg., Beach Road, Garapan

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) Maintenance
Atleast high school graduate . A valid driver's license. Ability to use efficiently various power and hand tools. Knows how to follow oral written instructions and can communicate efficiently and fluently in both witten and oral form.

(1) Fiberglass Laminator and Fabricator
With Atleast 2 years work related experience. Needs to be physically fit and willing to work flexible time.

Submit Applications To:
AYD SERVICES, INC.
Tel.# (670)235-7011

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Sewing Machine Operator
High School Diploma or general education degree; or one to 2 yrs. related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience.

Submit Applications To:
Pam Pacific Enterprises corp. dba Pena House Boutique/Iridescent Boutique
Tel. (670)235-7270

WHATZIT Solution:
A little, white lie

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Esthetician
With 2-3 years experience willing to work on flexible hours.
THE ROSE EMPIRE CORPORATION
PMB 2153 Box 10002,
Saipan MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

2 - Silkscreen Printer
1 - Silkscreen Printer
1 - General Manager
1 - Sales Representative
1 - Admin. Manager
1 - General Maintenance

U.S qualified applicants,
Email your resume at
hr.islandapprael@gmail.com
No phone calls please

Island Apparel
P.O. Box 502912,
Saipan MP 96950

GMA Corp. dba NMI Contractor
P.O. BOX 503317 CK, SAIPAN MP 96950
TEL./FAX: 233-5646 CELL: 287-3542/287-0847

POSITION : PURCHASING OFFICER
- Associate Degree or College degree with at least 3 years of work experience in procurement operation.
- Excellent skill in purchasing negotiation and knowledge-able in shipping & delivery documentation.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Application especially in Microsoft Excel & PowerPoint
- Has a background and able to use & understand Application System Protocol (SAP)
- Capable to multi task and perform administrative jobs
- With excellent communication skill, self-motivated and can handle work with a very minimum to no supervision
- Willing to work on extended hours, evening, during weekends or holidays if needed.
- Must able to drive with a valid driver's license.

Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment. Salaries will commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should be sent by mail to P.O. BOX 503317 Saipan, MP 96950 or email to noel96950@yahoo.com not later than March 31, 2017

MTL COMMERCIAL TRADING, INC.

Secretaries & Administrative Assistant

- Knowledge of Administrative & Clerical procedures & systems, Intuit Quickbooks Software.
- Knowledge of circuit boards, processors, chips, electronic equipment & computer hardware & software, including applications & programming.
- Knowledge of installation & configuration of computer hardware and its operating system.

Apply in person and bring resume.
No phone call please.
P.O. Box 501921, Saipan MP 96950

LSG Sky Chefs

LSG SKY CHEFS is looking to hire qualified U.S. workers for the following positions:

- **Baker Assistant**

Applications are available at the Main Office located on airport road, situated between American Red Cross Office and Historic Preservation Office, or send resume to rita.taitano@lsgskychefs.com. Deadline for submission is Thursday, March 30, 2017.

Gemkell Saipan Corporation

invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Accounting Manager (1)
College degree in finance, accounting, economics, or business administration and 5 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 3 years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage people. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft software. Excellent customer service skills. Knowledge of standard office equipment. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications to gemkell_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, resumes/application documents must be submitted not later than 5:00 PM on March 29, 2017. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Auto Mechanic – Must have atleast 2 yrs. work related experience. Excellent diagnostic/ repair skills of vehicle systems. High self motivation.

(1) Trash Collector – Atleast High School graduate. With valid driver's license. Needs to be physically fit and willing to work flexible time and must be hardworking.

Submit Applications To:
PAM PACIFIC ENTERPRISES CORP.
Tel. # (670)235-7270

CMLC ARTHA CO., LTD.
P.O. Box 500439, Saipan, MP 96950

Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Dive Master
Preferably can speak Chinese or Japanese

(1) General Manager
Preferably can speak Japanese

Must possess current Scuba Diving instructor license from a Professional Scuba Diving Association (PADI, NAUI, CMAS). Must have at least 2 to 5 years experience.

No phone call please.
Interested U.S. applicants can send their resume to acctg.cmlc@gmail.com

HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

1) Chief Accountant - Bachelor's Degree w/ minimum of 3 yrs. work experience
(1) Production Manager - College Degree or 5 yrs. Equivalent work experience
(1) Production Supervisor - High School Diploma w/ 2 yrs. work experience
(1) Refrigeration & Aircon Technician - High School/Vocational Diploma w/ 2 yrs. experience
(2) Sales Representative - High School Diploma w/ 1 yr. work experience
(1) Production Clerk - High School Diploma w/ 1 yr. work experience
(3) Baker - High School Diploma w/ 2 yrs. work experience
(2) Cake Decorator - High School Diploma w/ 1 yr. work experience
(2) Packer - High School Diploma w/ 6 mos. work experience
(1) Cook Assistant - High School Diploma w/ 6 mos. work experience

Must be willing to work on weekends, holidays and be able to work on flexible hours.

Interested applicants may send their resume to sales.saipan@hermansbakery.com or pick-up an application form at our HR office at Tun Herman Pan (Airport Road)

BRAND MANAGER

- Minimum 5 years experience in Sales
- Demonstrates excellent customer service & leadership skills
- Must have proficient computer and strong analytical skills
- Sets goals and strives for effective results
- Communicates effectively with management
- Works well under pressure

Interested candidates may submit their resume to:
employment671@gmail.com

CLASSIFIEDS POLICIES

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.
fib
WHATZIT? © 2017 www.whatzit.com
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndicator
www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Gold Mantis Construction Decoration(CNMI), LLC

PMB 599 BOX 10000
SAIPAN, MP 96950
Looking for U.S. Workers, please email your resume to:
goldmantiscnmi@gmail.com or call 670-322-9880

- **JOB TITLE: BRICK LAYER**
- **NUMBER OF OPENINGS: 200**
- **SALARY RANGE: $7.05 to $10 /Hourly**
- **JOB DUTIES:** Independently lay ceramic tiles and stone materials, obey construction arrangement and consciously complete allocated construction tasks, construct building according to work order without arbitrarily changing construction items and requirements, rapidly construct building with good quality and enough quantity during working time, get raw materials according to list of construction items, economize raw materials and eradicate waste, ensure that residual raw materials are recycled properly and stored into warehouse, ensure that raw materials are cleared after completion for customer satisfaction, pay attention to the safety of construction so as to prevent theft, fire disaster and personal injury, ensure that work order and materials order be timely checked and signed.
- **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Familiar with dry hanging technology of stone materials; skillfully operate cutting machine, angle grinder and other special machinery for brick laying. Must have at least a few months to 1 year experience.

- **JOB TITLE: PAINTER**
- **NUMBER OF OPENINGS: 200**
- **SALARY RANGE: $7.05 to $10 /Hourly**
- **JOB DUTIES:** Conscientiously and completely finish assigned tasks with good quality, and full rate if progress, correctly use and protect paint, alcohol, banana oil, and other volatile, inflammable and explosive chemicals; safely operate equipment according to technological operation specification; eradicate fire disaster, poisoning, electrical shock, etc., abide by rules and regulation of the company without violating laws and discipline; lend paint according to requirement of technology ; master the method of roughly estimating the precision of paint, operate air compression pump, exhaust fan, etc.; correctly use and read meters(i.e., barometer, thermometer, etc.)
- **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Familiar with the operating skill of spraying paint, must have the ability to read construction drawings, have a good command of kinds of special tools, independently paint putty and complete polish work, do surface latex decoration work, expertly pave and paste wall paper, spray paint wooden surfaces. At least a few months to 1 year of related experience and/or training, or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Must have at least a few months to 1 year of experience.

- **JOB TITLE: WOODWORKER**
- **NUMBER OF OPENINGS: 300**
- **SALARY RANGE: $7.05 to $10 /Hourly**
- **JOB DUTIES:** Responsible for all work about civil engineering in construction site, arrange and elaborately construct the project according to the overall construction planning, follow the command of leader of construction team and timely complete each task assigned solve existing technique problems and quality in construction, arrange working procedures to create safe working conditions, provide written safety technique disclosure to guarantee geometric dimensioning meets drawing requirements, axes shifting must be controlled in permitted scope; deviation of standard height must not exceed norm, cooperate with other workers to well hand over working procedure, consciously abide be rules and regulations of the company, obey the arrangement of superior leaders.
- **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Able to read construction drawings, able to skillfully operate kinds of special tools, able to install made-up wood surface, able to independently make light-steel suspension system, wall partition system, soft wall surface, and hard wall surface; comprehensively familiar with design blueprint, master design alteration, and technical disclosure of proprietors. Must have at least a few months to 1 year of experience.

- **JOB TITLE: ELECTRICIAN**
- **NUMBER OF OPENINGS: 100**
- **SALARY RANGE: $7.05 to $10 /Hourly**
- **JOB DUTIES:** Diagnose and repair electrical problems in commercial and domestic electrical systems, including fault-finding, rewiring, and monitoring Assess the parts needed for a job and place orders for those parts Conduct routine maintenance and testing on commercial and domestic electrical systems, and ensure installations are to manufacturer standards, including in fire alarms and security systems Rewire faulty electrical systems, such as lighting, heating systems, and alarms Ensure good quality workmanship which upholds company standards, complies with building codes, and follows safety requirements Work alone to find and present faults and concerns in electrical systems without receiving explicit direction
- **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Previous Electrical Experience, Lighting, Wiring, Alarm Systems, Fire Prevention Systems, Strong Written and Verbal Communication, Electrical Maintenance

- **JOB TITLE: ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**
- **NUMBER OF OPENING: 3**
- **SALARY RANGE: $7.05 to $18 /hourly**
- **JOB DUTIES:**
  - Manages and executes administrative, project, and executive support activities associated with the office of a core division or equivalent component of the company. Reporting directly to the principal executive officer of the entity, serves as principle point of administrative contact and liaison with internal and external constituencies.
  - Provides and/or oversees the provision of direct staff support to the office manager. Provides specialist administrative services as appropriate in such areas as public/community relations, faculty, staff, general business administration; and/or development and relations, depending upon the functional area supported.
  - Oversees and administers the day-to-day activities of the office; develops policies, procedures, and systems which ensure productive and efficient office operation.
  - Provides assistance and support in problem solving, project planning and management, and development and execution of stated goals and objectives.
  - Provides and/or oversees provision of staff support to the office, to include handling walk-up and phone interactions, maintaining calendars and travel arrangements, screening, analyzing, and responding to incoming correspondence, handling day-to-day problems and situations, and provision of secretarial support.
  - Provides assistance in the understanding and interpretation of company policies and procedures, as appropriate, and ensures that office operations are in compliance with policy provisions and standards.
  - Assists in the coordination, supervision, and completion of special projects, as appropriate.
- **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**
  - Completed degree(s) from an accredited institution that are above the minimum education requirement may be substituted for experience on a year for year basis
  - Bachelor's degree; 2 years of directly related experience managing at least one of the following functional areas: fiscal services, administration and/or human resources
  - Must be able to speak, read, and write in Mandarin
- **EXPERIENCE**
  - Five years of additional work experience directly related to the duties and responsibilities specified.

- **JOB TITLE: ACCOUNTANT**
- **NUMBER OF OPENING: 3**
- **SALARY RANGE: $7.05 to $18 /hourly**
- **JOB DUTIES:** Prepare and verify daily reports. Prepare daily income/sales and prepare daily journal entry. Prepare daily deposits of ticket sales receipts. Reconcile bank account for ticketing office. Communicate with ticketing managers and others working on the ticketing systems problems. Prepare authorized refund vouchers. Compile monthly reports. Investigate and collect returned items. Maintain returned check account. Maintain chargeback account. Prepare monthly balance sheet schedules. Preparing accounts and tax returns. Administering payrolls and controlling income and expenditure. Auditing financial information. Compiling and presenting reports, budgets, business plans, commentaries and financial statements. Financial forecasting and risk analysis.
- **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Competency in Microsoft applications including Word, Excel and Outlook. Organizational, verbal and written communication skills a must. Attention to detail and ability to multi-task is an asset. Requires 3-year-experience. Chinese speaking preferred.

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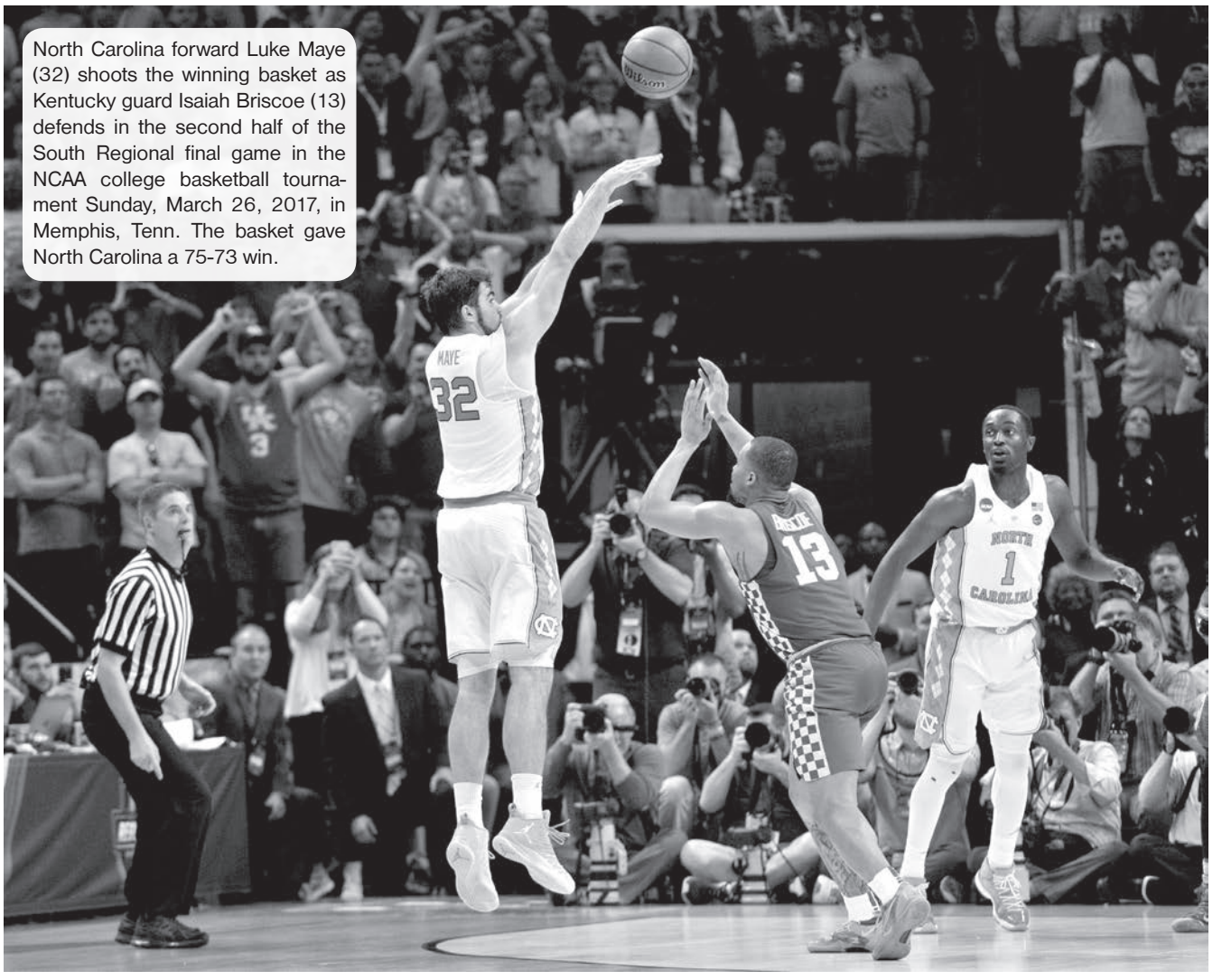
Maye hits late jumper to bring Tar Heels to Final Four



North Carolina forward Luke Maye (32) shoots the winning basket as Kentucky guard Isaiah Briscoe (13) defends in the second half of the South Regional final game in the NCAA college basketball tournament Sunday, March 26, 2017, in Memphis, Tenn. The basket gave North Carolina a 75-73 win.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Roy Williams went all "Gone With the Wind" when a player asked about his North Carolina Tar Heels making the last shot Sunday to edge Kentucky to the Final Four.

And the coincidence that the Tar Heels have been on the other end of similar shots recently, like in the 2016 national championship and a wild December game against the Wildcats.

"Frankly, my dear, I don't give a ...," Williams said with a smile, quoting Clark Gable's famed line as Rhett Butler. "I didn't care what he was talking about."

Luke Maye hit a jumper with 0.3 seconds left and top-seeded North Carolina held off Kentucky 75-73 to earn the Tar Heels' second straight trip to the Final Four, winning a showdown of college basketball's elite in the South Regional.

The national semifinal will be the 20th for North Carolina, where the Tar Heels (31-7) will play Midwest champ Oregon on Saturday in Glendale, Arizona.

North Carolina took control with 12 straight points over the final 5 minutes, a run similar to what it used a week ago to beat Arkansas. The Tar Heels finished this game with a 16-9 run. Kentucky's freshmen De'Aaron Fox hit a 3 and Malik Monk quickly added two more, one with 7.2 seconds left and defenders in his face to tie the game at 73.

"I probably should have called time out," Kentucky coach John Calipari said. "It entered my mind, but they got that son of a B in so quick, I couldn't get to anybody to do it. I needed to stop that right there."

Theo Pinson drove enough toward the basket to pick off Maye's defender, then passed back to Maye. The sophomore from Huntersville, North Carolina, knocked it down for the win with his feet on the 3-point line.

"I just kind of stepped back, and he gave me the ball and I just shot it, and luckily it went in," Maye said. "It was a great feeling."

Maye finished with a career-high 17 points off the bench for North Carolina. Justin Jackson scored 19 points, and Joel Berry II added 11 on a sprained left ankle.

The Wildcats had one last chance, but Derek Willis' inbounds pass went out of bounds on the far end.

Kentucky (32-6) will miss out on the Final Four for the second straight year. Willis and sophomore Isaac Humphries left the court with towels over their heads, and Fox was the last to leave.

The Wildcats had hoped their talented freshmen would carry them. Bam Adebayo and Fox each had 13 points, and Monk, the Southeastern Conference player of the year, finished with 12. Fox and Adebayo wept side by side in the locker room.

"That shot is just playing back and forth in my head," Fox said. "It's going to be difficult to get over."

Never before had the NCAA Tournament pitted powerhouse programs that have so dominated March. This South final featured Kentucky with the most tournament wins all-time with 124 and North Carolina just behind with 120 (now 121).

This was just the fourth time these blue bloods have met in a regional final. The result was much the same as the others, with North Carolina now 3-1 against Kentucky as the Tar Heels avenged a 103-100 loss on Dec. 17 in Las Vegas.

Kentucky led for less than 4 minutes in a game North Carolina had a big edge on the boards (44-34) and inside, where the Tar Heels outscored the Wildcats 34-26.

Officials didn't help the flow of this game calling fouls left and right, though Kentucky took the brunt with its star trio of freshmen all picking up two fouls each in the half. Fox played only 8 minutes of the first half after picking up his second foul with 12:23 left. Adebayo easily was the most frustrated as he missed all five shots in the half with Kennedy Meeks swatting away one of his dunk attempts.

North Carolina led by as much as 9 a couple times before both teams went into shooting slumps. The Tar Heels led 38-33 at halftime.

South Carolina 77, Florida 70

In New York, South Carolina added a missing piece to its rich basketball history.

The school of Frank McGuire, Kevin Joyce, Brian Winters, Mike Dunleavy and Alex English is going to the Final Four for the first time.

Add the names Sindarius Thornwell and Frank Martin to the top of the list.

Thornwell's 26 points and the Gamecocks' swarming zone defense meant a 77-70 victory over Florida on Sunday and a berth in the Final Four.

Martin, he of the booming voice and terrifying faces, led the seventh-seeded Gamecocks to the biggest victory in school history and now they will face Gonzaga, the No. 1 seed from the West Regional, in the Final Four on Saturday at Glendale, Arizona.

"Anyone that's in sports dreams of moments like this," said Martin, who was doused with water and dancing as soon as he entered the locker room. "It's not something that you start dreaming it the year you win 25 games. You dream it every single day."

The game was as close as expected until the final minute. There were 14 lead changes and 10 ties. The last lead change came on two free throws by Thornwell with 2:24 left that made it 65-63. Fourth-seeded Florida managed just three field goals over the final 3:55.

Thornwell, the regional MVP, followed the deciding free throws with a nice assist to Maik Kotsar for a 4-point lead. It seemed Thornwell, who scored eight straight points for the Gamecocks, was always where he needed to be including making a steal with 40 seconds left that turned into a 73-68 lead.

"Plays needed to be made down the stretch and I stepped up and made plays," Thornwell said.

Teammate Duane Notice knew Thornwell would come through.

"He's capable of doing anything on both sides of the basketball. So it doesn't surprise me," he said. "His senior leadership just kicked in. He don't want us to lose. He don't want our season to end."

"Thornwell was just being Thornwell," Florida coach Mike White said of the SEC player of the year as voted by coaches. "He's one of the best players in the country."

PJ Dozier added 17 points for the Gamecocks, Chris Silva had 13 and Kotsar 12.

Justin Leon had 18 points for the Gators who managed a 40-33 halftime lead on 7-for-12 shooting from 3-point range. But that was it. Florida was 0 for 14 from beyond the arc in the second half, a lot like the 0-for-17 effort the Gators had in their first meeting with South Carolina this season.

"We still got our open looks, but they just, I guess they just went farther than what they were in the first half," Leon said.

South Carolina, which forced Florida into 16 turnovers, finished 23 for 31 from the free throw line, including a 9-for-10 effort from Thornwell.

It was the third straight game the Gamecocks were trailing at the half and went on to win.

"We felt like we was doing the right things. We felt like everything was going good for us, it was just the ball wasn't falling in, and we just needed a couple more stops," Thornwell said. "So going into halftime we always just buckled in and locked in on what we needed to do to win and took it one possession at a time."

Mets' Matz has tender elbow, status for opening day in doubt

NEW YORK (AP)—New York Mets pitcher Steven Matz has been scratched from his next start because of tenderness in his left elbow, putting his status for opening day in doubt.

Matz had been scheduled to throw Monday in a minor league game.

"There's a little irritation, and he's got to work that out," Mets general manager Sandy Alderson said Sunday. "We don't think it's anything significant, but it bothers him on extension. He won't pitch tomorrow, and we'll see where that takes him over the next four or five days."

Alderson said the problem has bothered Matz for "a period of time."

While Matz hasn't been sent for an MRI, Alderson said the ailment is troubling because the 25-year-old has often been slowed during his two seasons with the Mets.

"It's worrisome that he continues to be injured off and on. That's the difficulty," Alderson said.

Matz was 9-8 with a 3.40 ERA in 22 starts last year, but was shut down in September and had surgery to remove bone spurs from his left elbow.

The Mets open the season April 3 at home against Atlanta.

Matz gave up five runs and eight hits in four innings against Miami on Wednesday. He is 1-1 with a 4.26 ERA in four starts this spring.

Matz said the discomfort flared up before that last start and continued during the game. He said he notified the trainers afterward when more soreness than usual lingered.

"It's just a little tenderness and a little setback," said Matz, who will have a lighter workout Monday and long toss.

"I think I'll be fine. I think I'll be good to go. I'll resume throwing and try to jump back in it," he said.

Manager Terry Collins said he was "extremely disappointed" to hear the news, saying he couldn't imagine Matz would be ready for the start of the season if he misses this week.

"We had a backup plan, and we're going to turn to that backup plan right now. We're just lucky we have some pretty good pitching," Collins said.

A prolonged injury to Matz, the lone left-handed starter in the rotation, would create at least one spot for either Robert Gsellman or Seth Lugo. Those righties were already in the mix as potential replacements for Zack Wheeler, also an option in his return from Tommy John surgery in 2015.

Johnson wins Match Play to sweep WGC

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—The final day lasted longer than Dustin Johnson wanted. The outcome was what everyone expected.

Johnson, a golfing machine with no discernible weakness and hardly any pulse, won the Dell Technologies Match Play on Sunday for his third straight victory, this one making him the first person to sweep the four World Golf Championships.

He had to work the hardest for this title.

Johnson was taken to the 18th hole in the semifinal before making an 8-foot putt to beat Hideto Tanihara, and then Jon Rahm rallied from 5 down with 10 holes to play until his fearless charge fell short on the final hole.

Johnson tapped in a 30-inch putt for a 1-up victory, completing a dominant week in which he never trailed in the 112 holes he played over seven matches.

"What am I going to say that you guys don't know?" Rahm said. "If his putter had been hot, I wouldn't have had a chance, no question. ... It's amazing how he's able to keep cool the entire round. It amazes me. And he's just a perfect, complete player."

Johnson now has 15 victories in his career, six of them dating to his first major at the U.S. Open last summer at Oakmont. Three of them were World Golf Championships at the Bridgestone Invitational, the Mexico Championship and the Match Play. He won the HSBC Champions in Shanghai in 2013.

Asked to size up his feat, Johnson said, "Pretty good."

There's really not much else to say. He led 94 percent of the holes he played at Austin Country Club, a tournament record. He won 46 of those 112 holes. When asked about his pulse on Saturday, Johnson said, "It's beating."

And on Sunday?

"It got a little faster than I would have liked starting on about 16," he said with a smile. "But I was able to hang in there."

Johnson was 4 up with six holes to play when Rahm, a bold Spanish rookie with a big game, hit driver over the water and onto the 13th green to win the hole with a birdie. He stuck a wedge close on the 15th for another birdie. Rahm hit a shot through the trees on the 16th and won the hole with a 30-foot birdie. And just like that, he was 1 down with two holes to play.

"I just made a swing as hard as I could," Rahm said. "And somehow the ball went under the first tee, rose just over the next one ... and went through to 100 yards. I don't know what happened. I think either Seve, God, someone right there or both of them just made a gap in the trees and made my ball go through there."

Indeed, it was the kind of magic Spanish great Seve Ballesteros for so long produced.

Rahm's comeback, however, fell short. Playing the 356-yard 18th hole for the first time in competition all week, and needing a birdie to send this heavyweight bout to overtime, Rahm smashed driver over the back of the green. But his chip down the slope checked up and stayed short of the ridge, leaving him a downhill putt that broke so sharply that he aimed nearly at a 90-degree angle away from the hole. He did well to make par.

Johnson came up just short of the green, chipped close and rolled in it to complete another big week.

"That was a tough day, a long day," Johnson said. "I'm proud of the way I played, the way I hung in there."

Rahm, who dispatched of Bill Haas in the semifinals, 3 and 2, wanted to face the hottest player in golf in the championship. And for the longest time, it looked as though the 22-year-old Spaniard regretted it.

Rahm gave away three straight holes by missing par putts from 6 feet and 8 feet, and missing a birdie putt from 4 feet. Johnson stretched his lead to 5 up with yet another bogey by Rahm, and it looked as though this match might be over early.

Rahm, who already is No. 14 in the world in just his 15th tournament as a pro, began chipping away. Johnson three-putted the 10th hole for the third straight match, regained momentum with a two-putt birdie on the 12th hole—Rahm hit his tee shot downhill and downwind at 438 yards, Johnson at 424 yards—and then the Spaniard began his remarkable rally.

There is just no beating Johnson at the moment. He won at Riviera by five shots. He held on for a one-shot victory in Mexico.

AP

Dustin Johnson watches his tee shot on the second hole during semifinal play at the Dell Technologies Match Play golf tournament at Austin County Club, Sunday, March 26, 2017, in Austin, Texas.

Williams leads Rockets to easy 137-125 win over Thunder

HOUSTON (AP)—Lou Williams scored 31 points, James Harden finished with 22 points and 12 assists, and the Houston Rockets cruised to a 137-125 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder on Sunday.

Oklahoma City star Russell Westbrook had 39 points, 11 rebounds and 13 assists for his second straight triple-double and his 36th this season, but Harden led the Rockets to a 25-point lead through three quarters in the matchup between top MVP candidates.

Trevor Ariza and Eric Gordon added 24 points apiece for the Rockets, whose lead was trimmed to eight on a 3-pointer by Westbrook with about 90 seconds left. The Rockets then scored four quick points to secure the victory.

Harden left late in the game after crashing into the court and appearing to injure his left wrist, but said in a TV interview he expected to be OK.

Celtics 112, Heat 108

In Boston, Isaiah Thomas scored 30 points, including 20 in the second half, and Boston beat Miami for its fourth straight victory.

The win moved Boston (48-26) within percentage points of Cleveland (47-25) for the top spot in the Eastern Conference. The Celtics also equaled their win total from last season.

Jae Crowder added 25 points and six rebounds for the Celtics.

Tyler Johnson had 24 points and James Johnson scored 20 for the Heat, who are a half-game ahead of the Bulls for the final playoff spot in the East. Hassan Whiteside had 19 points and 15 rebounds for Miami.

Warriors 106, Grizzlies 94

In Oakland, Klay Thompson scored 21 of his 31 points in the second half and Golden State pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat Memphis for its seventh straight win.

Stephen Curry added 21 points and 11 assists, and Andre Iguodala scored 20 as the Warriors (59-14) extended their lead to 2+ games over the Spurs for the top spot in the West. Golden State began a stretch of five games in eight days when the Warriors will face playoff contenders Houston (twice), San Antonio and Washington.

Memphis had beaten the Warriors twice this season and was attempting to become the first team to notch three regular-season wins against Golden State since the Spurs' four-game sweep in 2013-14.

The Grizzlies stayed close until the fourth quarter, when their offense went cold and the Warriors took off. Memphis missed 15 of its first 17 shots in the period.

Bulls 109, Bucks 94

In Milwaukee, Nikola Mirotic tied a season high with 28 points, Jimmy Butler had 20 points and a career-high 14 assists, and the Bulls pulled away for the win.

Butler broke his previous career best for assists (12) by the end of a pivotal third quarter, when Chicago stretched a one-point lead at the half to 91-79 going into the fourth.

Butler punctuated the second-half runaway with a backcourt steal off a telegraphed pass by Greg Monroe before strolling the other way for an easy dunk and 17-point lead with 8:55 left.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 22 points and eight rebounds for Milwaukee.

Kings 98, Clippers 97

In Los Angeles, Willie Cauley-Stein made a follow shot with two seconds left, lifting Sacramento to the road win.

Down 85-67 early in the fourth, the Kings rallied while Blake Griffin, Chris Paul and DeAndre Jordan were resting. Buddy Hield hit three 3-pointers in the final minutes, pulling the Kings to 96-93 with 2:10 to play.

Griffin made one of two free throws with 1:57 left before the Kings cut it to 97-96 on Langston Galloway's 3-pointer with 1:23 to play.

After Jamal Crawford missed a 3-pointer, Cauley-Stein finished off a fast break with the deciding basket.

Darren Collison led the Kings with 19 points. Hield added 15 as the Kings snapped a four-game losing streak and won for only the third time in 15 games.

Hornets 120, Suns 106

In Charlotte, Kemba Walker had 31 points and nine assists, and Charlotte handed Phoenix its eighth straight loss.

Marvin Williams added 21 points and Nic Batum had 18 points and 10 assists for the Hornets, who have won four of their last five games as they try to make a late playoff push.

Suns guard Devin Booker, who became the sixth player in NBA history to score 70 points in a loss Saturday night to the Boston Celtics, got off to a slow start but finished with 23 points on 7-of-17 shooting. TJ Warren had 21 points and 10 rebounds.

Walker went 10 for 18 from the field and 7 for 7 at the free-throw line.

Nets 97, Hawks 91

In Atlanta, Brook Lopez scored 23 points and Brooklyn handed Atlanta its seventh straight loss.

Jeremy Lin had 19 points for the Nets (16-57), who have won three of four and are 7-8 in March.

The Hawks are tied with Milwaukee for fifth in the Eastern Conference.

Atlanta (37-36) continued to struggle without All-Star Paul Millsap, who missed his fifth straight game with left knee tightness. The Hawks also were without Kent Bazemore, who missed his fourth straight game with a right knee bone bruise, and Thabo Sefolosha (right groin strain).

Dennis Schroder led Atlanta with 24 points.

Back from irregular heartbeat, Dempsey hopes for 4th Cup

PANAMA CITY (AP)— Clint Dempsey's big, owlish eyes brightened and he smiled widely. Seven months after he was sidelined by an irregular heartbeat, he not only returned to the U.S. national team at age 34 but helped the Americans to a critical victory in World Cup qualifying with just the second hat trick of his international career.

"There's moments where you're sitting at home and you're praying and hoping things will work out," he said brightly in his Texan twang. "So I'm just blessed that I can keep going. It's what I love to do, and hopefully there's some more time left."

His career came to a sudden stop last Aug. 26 when Major League Soccer's Seattle Sounders announced their star forward was being evaluated for an irregular heartbeat. After two unspecified procedures, Dempsey returned for Seattle's opener on March 4, keyed Friday night's 6-0 rout of Honduras and hopes to play a big role in Tuesday night's qualifier against Panama.

"On big days, he's a guy that you want next to you," U.S captain Michael Bradley said Sunday. "He's a guy who's going to always continue to give everything he has until somebody says he can't anymore."

AP

In this July 22, 2015, file photo, United States' Clint Dempsey shoots during the second half of a CONCACAF Gold Cup semifinal soccer game against Jamaica in Atlanta. Dempsey, DaMarcus Beasley and Tim Howard have been around with Bruce Arena since the last time the U.S. coach guided the Americans into World Cup qualifying, way back 12 years ago.

Wearing a bright red jersey, shorts and socks, a predominantly orange boot on his right foot and a lime one on his left, the bearded Dempsey scored Friday when he held off a defender and with astonishing precision controlled a chip from 18-year-old Christian Pulisic. Dempsey got his second goal when he rounded the goalkeeper following Pulisic's pass, then converted a free kick for his 55th international goal, two shy of Landon Donovan's American record.

"You know me, I'm a fighter, so I looked for the opportunity to try to get out there and show that I should be around still," Dempsey said.

He has a chance to join Pele, Uwe Seeler and Miroslav Klose as the only players to score in four World Cups.

"You've got to stay relevant," Dempsey explained. "And you can't just say it, and that's going to happen. I have to be on the field and do it."

Dempsey scored against Ghana at the 2006 and 2014 World Cup— the latter just 30 seconds into the match—and versus England at the 2010 tournament. Also a big-game player at the club level, his chip from the edge of the penalty area lifted Fulham over Juventus and into the 2010 Europa League quarterfinals.

A wide midfielder with pace during the first half of his career, he's played as a central striker in recent years or sometimes as a withdrawn forward on the national team behind Jozy Altidore. Twenty-four of Dempsey's international goals have been scored since he turned 30 -- just six of those in friendlies.

NEARLY

From Page 28

sis (1:16:13) and David Boyer (1:17:16) rounded out the Top 5, while other finishers in the division were Pohnpei's Kaleo Kigleng (1:20:07), Palau's Keemo Kanai (1:22:32), Manhoben's Miguel Jugo (1:26:00), SSC's R.J. Pierce (1:28:46), Pohnpei's Kaleb Boylston (1:35:24), and Manhoben's Gray Harver (1:35:25).

In the women's 15 to 24 division, World and Oceania championships veteran Osisang Chilton clocked in at 1:13:55 to prevail against Manhoben's Mineri Gomez (1:18:33), teammate Roylyn Akiwo (1:18:41) and Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Angel De Jesus (1:20:12).

Meanwhile, other top finishers in their respective age groups were U8 600m's Maria Batallones and Aasish Dangol; 9 to 10 1K's Ashley Dangol and Isaiah Aleksenko; 11 to 12 2.6K's Klei Andreas and Jinnosuke Suzuki; 13 to 14 3.9K's Aika Watanabe and Noel Keane; over 25 1.3K's Suzy Kindel and Richard Sikkel; and over 25 2.6K's Yasuko Yasuko and Billy Brown.

Brown, the national coach of Palau, submitted 38:13 in the race to beat Saipan's Colin Thompson (42:16), and two other swimmers, while Yasuko recorded 43:21 to win over Carol Lynn Pierce (49:20) and Jennifer Kogure (1:09:03. Kindel and Sikkel registered 26:28 and 25:28, respectively, to top their respective age groups with the former finishing ahead of Mamiko Berger (35:26), Carr Andrea (43:40), and Yulia Aleksenko (54:59). Sikkel downed Atsushi (31:26), Joshua Berger (32:21), and Robbins (34:14).

Tsunami Saipan's Aika Watanabe finished the 3.9K race in less than an hour (56:27) to place ahead of SSC's Jin Ju Thompson (58:55), Palau's Ikelau Misech (1:05:06), SSC's Jasmin Frink (1:16:37), and Manukai Athletic Club's Ella Fedenko (1:16:39). Palau's Noel timed in at 50:40 in the same event to beat Manhoben's Mark Imazu (52:26), Palau's Malcolm Gaymann (52:40), SSC's Taiga Sato (52:46) and Lennosuke Suzuki (56:18), Tsunami Saipan's Nelson Batallones (54:54), and Manhoben's Christian Harver (1:16:23).

In the 11 to 12 2.6K races, Palau had a 1-2 finish in the girls with Klei Adreas timing in at 42:44 and her teammate Lolmei Uong posting 50:06. SSC's Jinie Thompson shared the second spot with Uong, while Manhoben's Abigail Harver (1:08:14) came in at fourth. In the boys division, Jinnosuke Suzuki registered 35:03 to top Tsunami Saipan's Juhn Tenorio (36:33) and Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero (36:55) and six other swimmers.

Siblings Aasish (11:55) and Ashley (15:10) defeated five and seven other swimmers in the 600m and 1K races, respectively. Maria Batallones (12:09), another Tsunami Saipan swimmer, edged five participants in the girls 600m, while Aleksenko (15:07) completed the club's sweep in the two shortest distance races last Sunday.

FITIAL

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PXC 56 came after he lost his MMA return following a five-year absence.

The Marianas Elite standout bowed to Guam's Roque Martinez via unanimous decision during the PXC 54 held last July 8, 2016. Before that bout, Fitial also dueled Martinez in PXC 24 (June 11, 2011) and won via TKO (punches).

"I had only two to three months to prepare when I challenged Roque last year. This time, I trained longer thus the results were different. I could have lasted a few more rounds after I fought Benjamin," the 32-year-old fight said.

Fitial also believed being 10lbs lighter than his Australian foe gave him quickness and allowed him to elude majority of Sosoli's punches. The CNMI MMA bet tipped the scale at 239lbs during last Friday's weigh-in, down to nearly 30 pounds from his previous weight when he collided against Martinez. He credited his wife Yuline for taking care of his diet and buddy Jerry Diaz of Gold's Gym for developing an effective workout for him.

"My opponent threw a lot of heavy punches, but I was quick enough to evade them. I also tried to keep the fight standing up because that's my game plan. It will be harder if we ended up fighting on the ground," said Fitial, who improved his win-draw-loss record to 13-2-8.

Sosoli absorbed only his second loss in five MMA pro fights.

With his victory last weekend, Fitial hopes to have another shot at Martinez. The rivals met three times in PXC with their first encounter (PXC 22) on Jan. 21, 2011 ending in a draw.

"I hope to close that chapter with him because I am planning to lose more weight and fight either in the light heavyweight or middleweight," Fitial said.

Meanwhile, Fitial would like to thank the following for making his victory in PXC 56 possible: Pete and Mark Sablan, GSM, Saipan Apparel, GIG, GMT, Imperial Pacific, High Blood Pressure Guam, Trench Tech, Choke Chain, Muay Thai Guam, Hoopaholics, Trench Tech's Cukie Alvarez, and Shamrock Restaurant.

MAMI

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plete the 10K race under 40 minutes, as Korean and runner-up Yeseoh Oh checked in at the 43:19 mark. Japan's Akira Yoshimura (43:38) and Kosuke Sato (44:15), Korea's Min Soo Kim (44:58) , and Saipan's Eun Syu Hahn (45:29) also made it to the Top 6 overall in the men's divisions.

In the age group competition, Saipan's Rintaro Miyawaki topped the U14 division after posting 45:35, while other first place finishers were 15 to 19's Haruya Eda (49:21), 20 to 29's Huiyun Kim (1:07:26), 30 to 39's Shinobu Ohida (48:02), 40 to 49's Harumitsu Ono (46:33), 50 to 59's Ariel Lansangan (50:24), and over 60's Steven Pixley (49:24).

In the women's divisions, the age group champions were U14's Mayiah Duenas (1:12:27), 15 to 19's Yangzhou Su (1:05:21), 20 to 29's Andrea Hofschneider (57:07), 30 to 39's Claire Devey (54:27), 40 to 49's Claire Grove (54:27), 50 to 59's Amalia Harris (54:56), and over 60's Masako Uyama (1:02:48).

The 10K course had runners going to Beach Road (across Char Store near the Saipan Mayor's Office) and back to the starting/finish line at Micro Beach.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

LOCAL SCORES

2017 SAIPAN BASEBALL LEAGUE
Standings (As of Mar. 24)

TEAMS	W	L		W	L
GSM	6	0	D-9ers	3	3
Aces	5	1	Comets	2	4
CK Bears	4	2	Titanium	1	5
Falcons	3	3	Blue Jays	0	6

Batting Leaders: Based on 18 or more AB

Players	Teams	AB	Hit	Ave.	Jose Lizama Jr.	CK Bears	23	9	.391
Jesse Brel	GSM	21	12	.571	AJ Evangelista	Falcons	18	7	.389
Franklin Lizama	CK Bears	24	12	.500	Lorenzo Sebaklim	Comets	18	7	.389
Nathan Camacho	Titanium	18	10	.556	Lamarc Iguel	BSI Aces	26	10	.385
Angel Palacios	CK Bears	26	12	.462	Peyton Lizama	CK Bears	21	8	.381
Jobe Reyes	Comets	22	10	.455	John Tudela	BSI Aces	21	8	.381
Giovanni Mira	Falcons	20	9	.450	Henry Lizama Jr.	CK Bears	24	9	.375
Jhace Palacios	Titanium	28	12	.429	Fred Songao	CK Bears	22	8	.364
Pat Alepuyo	GSM	21	9	.429	Jesus Iguel	BSI Aces	25	9	.360
Jerald Cabrera	Titanium	21	9	.429	AJ Lizama	CK Bears	26	9	.346
					Roke Tenorio	D-9ers	27	9	.333

Individual Stats

Runs:

Jesus Iguel	BSI Aces	13
Jesse Brel	GSM	12
AJ Lizama	CK Bears	11
Patrick Tenorio	Titanium	10
Roke Tenorio	D-9ers	10

Doubles:

Roke Tenorio	D-9ers	4

Triples:

Henry Lizama	CK Bears	2
John Tudela	BSI Aces	2
Anthony Tenorio	GSM	2

Homerun:

Giovanni Mira	Falcons	1

RBI:

Tyrone Omar	GSM	10
Anthony Tenorio	GSM	10
Ricardo Dela Cruz	GSM	9

Pitching Leaders: Base on 7 or more innings pitched

Name	Team	IP	ER	ERA
Nathan Guerrero	GSM	15	0	0.00
AJ Lizama	CK Bears	13.1	0	0.00
Jose Guerrero	D-9ers	9	0	0.00
Joe Palacios	Titanium	21	2	0.86
Mike Iguel	BSI Aces	9	1	1.00
Ricky Joe Riengul	Falcons	16.2	2	1.08
LJ Sebaklim	Blue Jays	15.2	2	1.15
Manny Cabrera	BSI Aces	7.2	1	1.17
Franklin Lizama	CK Bears	14.1	2	1.26
MJ Sakisat	D-9ers	12.2	3	2.13

Strikeouts Leaders

Name	Team	SO	Name	Team	SO
Joe Palacios	Titanium	21	JJ Lifoifoi	Falcons	14
Ricky Joe Riengul	Falcons	17	Virgil Secharmidal	Blue Jays	12
Franklin Lizama	CK Bears	17	LJ Sebaklim	Blue Jays	12
Lorenzo Sebaklim	Comets	16	Nathan Camacho	Titanium	11
Franco Nakamura	Comets	15	MJ Sakisat	D-9ers	11

2017 Saipan Marathon

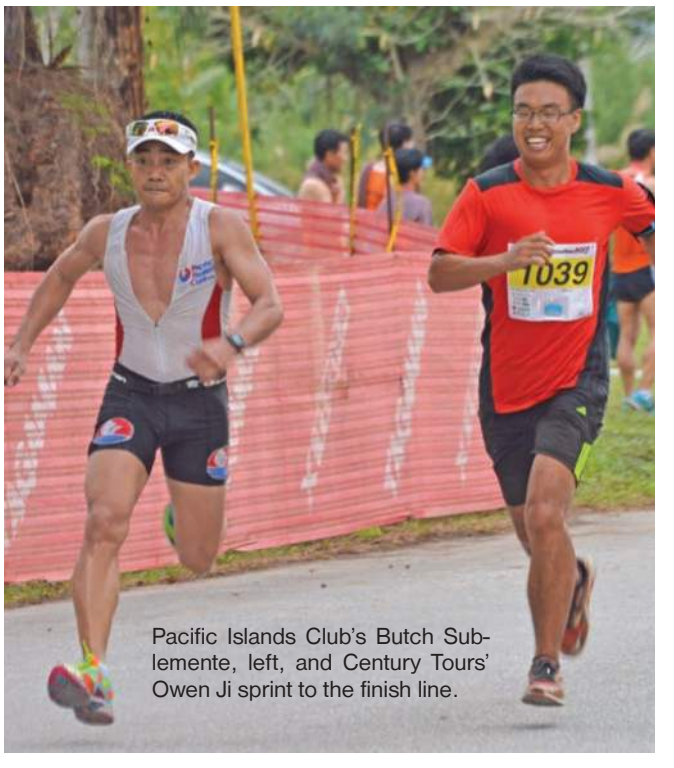
PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members of the Takahashi family run together toward the finish line of the 10K race in last Saturday's 2017 Saipan Marathon.

Raj Rai does the 10K run barefoot.

Two female runners hold hands on their way to the finish line of the 10K race.

Rintaro Miyawaki is about to cut the tape during the 10K race.



Pacific Islands Club's Butch Sublemente, left, and Century Tours' Owen Ji sprint to the finish line.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Das Krishnan is all smiles as he is about to complete the 10K race.

Former Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio celebrates his 10K race finish.

Ayumi Kaga, right, accompanies her son, Cojiro, to the finish line of the 10K run.

Maye hits late jumper to bring Tar Heels to Final Four

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Johnson wins Match Play to sweep WGC

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Fitial beats Aussie foe in PXC 56

PACIFIC XTREME COMBAT PHOTO
The CNMI's Kelvin Fitial, right, lands a right cross on Australia's Benjamin Sosoli during their heavyweight bout in PXC 56 held last Saturday at the University of Guam Calvo Field House.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A more prepared Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial earned a unanimous decision win over Australia's Benjamin Sosoli during their heavyweight bout in PXC 56 last Saturday at the University of Guam Calvo Field House.

Fitial used his new found quickness and reach advantage on Sosoli to connect solid kicks and knees that prevented the Aussie from aggressively attacking the former in their three-round fight.

"I gave him some kicks in the first round and then in the second, I let go of some knees that made him think twice if he's going to move closer. We then had exchanges in the third and I remained aggressive as I knew he was gassing out, while I still have the stamina to attack him," said Fitial, whose victory in

See FITIAL on Page 26

Mami returns, chooses 10K race

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mamiko, right, and Joshua Berger, are all smiles after completing the 10K race in last Saturday's 2017 Saipan Marathon.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Micronesian Games gold medalist Mamiko Berger opted to do the 10K race in last Saturday's 2017 Saipan Marathon and made it to the podium after ranking first in her age group and second overall in the women's division.

Berger, who gave the CNMI the gold medals in the 5K and 10K events during the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau, timed in at 42:28 in last weekend's 10K run that marked her first race on Saipan since moving to Bangkok, Thailand with husband Joshua late last year.

"It was one of the toughest runs ever and I didn't do well. I wanted to go under 40 minutes or try to be right behind Keith," said Mamiko, referring to men's division 10K champion and top overall finisher Keith Longuski, who clocked in at 38:42.

The 47-year-old runner, who was the oldest among the Top 6 overall finishers in the women's division, did the a half marathon event in Bangkok a few months before she and Joshua returned to the island to participate in the 2017 Saipan Marathon.

"Josh and I joined the Bangkok International Half Marathon and I was the 14th female out of 1,100 and it was super fun to run with all those invited African super runners. My 10K, as I said earlier was very tough for me and I need to work on so many things. Luckily, I got much appreciative advice from Keith, Noriko Jim and the 10K female winner from Japan, who is a semi pro runner as well as a running coach, after the race," Mamiko said.

Japan's Tomoe Yokoyama and Jim, who ruled the 10K for so many years, clocked in at 42:03 and 46:07, respectively, to rank first and third. Yokoyama earned her third straight 10K win in the Saipan Marathon. Rounding out the Top 6 were Japan's Midori Nakada (50:15) and Saipan's Ayumi Kaga (50:15) and Ayano Braxton (51:27).

Mamiko, who were greeted by her Saipan friends and co-runners at the finish line, said she will run more 10K races when she gets back to Bangkok to get use to the short/middle distance events.

"Basically, I have been a long distance runner for ages and did not know how to prepare for the short distance and my legs and heart were not ready for it. I will stick on 10K races for a while and I will join as many 10K or 5K races as possible in Bangkok, since there are always races every weekend. We will come back on Saipan and run again," said Mamiko, who also recorded wins in both the full and ultra marathon events here.

Meanwhile, Longuski was the lone runner to com-

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Nearly 100 join SSC Ocean Swim

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

There was plenty of competition in the 38th Annual Saipan Swim Club Ocean Swim as about 100 swimmers participated in last Sunday's event held in the waters near Naked Fish in Susupe.

In the 5.2K race—the longest swim of the weekend—SSC's very own Kento Akimaru bested 10 other swimmers in the men's 15 to 24 age group. The 16-year-old completed the four-lap race in 1:06:07 to place ahead of Manhoben Swim Club and siblings Santiago (1:06:43) and Tanner Poppe (1:10:40). Akimaru's teammates Christian Villacru-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Swimmers get ready to head to the waters near Naked Fish in Susupe for the 38th Annual Saipan Swim Club Ocean Swim held last Sunday.